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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Session Ends in Tunis

LD2310185690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The Arab League Council concluded the discussion of a number of administrative and financial matters in Tunis today. The 94th ordinary session began yesterday evening at the level of the permanent representatives to the League. During this morning's working session, the Council examined the remaining items of the agenda.

The Council appointed six heads of missions to represent the Arab League abroad. They are from Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Somalia, Mauritania, and Yemen. The Council also extended the mandates of some directors at the League's General Secretariat.

Mohamed Traboulsi, from Tunisia, was also appointed adviser to the secretary-general. The participants also elected the members of the Higher Monitoring Committee and the Administration Board of the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance. The Council agreed last night to extend the mandates of (Moncef El May) from Tunisia as adviser to the secretary-general and head of the League's mission in Moscow; and Zuhayr 'Uqaym from Syria as adviser to the secretary-general and high commissioner to the main office of the Arab Bureau for the Boycott of Israel.

At the beginning of its session yesterday evening, the Council also approved the Arab League's budget.

Support Grows for Delaying League Relocation

NC2310122890 Paris AFP in English 1001 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, Oct 23 (AFP)—A move to delay relocating Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo gained strong support when five more members, including Iraq, rallied behind North African countries opposing a transfer next week, Arab diplomatic sources said here Tuesday [23 October].

Ten of the Arab League's 21 members now want the delay, but Egypt insisted Monday that the transfer should go ahead on schedule.

Five members—Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)—have told the League they support a request by five North African states to wait until after a meeting of Arab state foreign ministers, the sources said.

Countries of the Arab Maghreb Union—Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia—have proposed that the League's Council meet at ministerial level November 15. But Arab foreign ministers meeting October 3 in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations failed to agree on a date.

Meanwhile Egyptian sources here said that Egypt, in a note to the League Monday, insisted the move to Cairo should go ahead by November 1, as agreed by 11 of the 21 League members on September 10 during a special session of the Council held in Cairo.

They said the note from Egypt pointed out that the Council's earlier decision on the transfer could not be annulled except by a new Council meeting.

In Cairo, AL-AHRAM newspaper said Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, whose country currently chairs the Maghreb Union, had asked his foreign minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali, to travel to Cairo within the next 48 hours to discuss the issue with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Mr. Mubarak, quoted Tuesday in the Cairo daily AL-JUMHURIYAH, said of the move to delay the transfer: "dilatory maneuvers are doomed to failure".

On Monday, while reviewing Egyptian troops deployed in northeast Saudi Arabia, he asserted the transfer would go ahead before November 1.

Maghreb Union Ministers Meet in Algiers

LD1910131990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Maghreb edification is being implemented step by step in line with the resolutions of the Arab Maghreb Union Presidency Council. Thus, in implementation of the Presidency Council resolutions in Algiers, the foreign, finance, economy and agriculture ministers are meeting today at the al-Mithaq Residence to prepare major axes of Maghreb development strategy. The meeting opened this morning and continues in closed session. This enlarged meeting follows a session at the level of the Council of Maghreb Ministers and secretaries who are in charge economics and finance. The final meeting of this session lasted until late last night and was crowned with a draft agreement calling for the establishment of a Maghreb bank for investment and external trade.

The session, which was chaired by Algerian Minister of Economy Ghazi Hidouci, was characterized by exciting discussions indicating seriousness and eagerness to base the Arab Maghreb foundations away from rashness and haphazardness.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh on Incidents in Jerusalem

Says Stabbing War 'Just' Beginning

JN2310151590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] In Amman, PLO official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the war of stabbing with knives against the usurpers of Jerusalem is just at its beginning.

Says UN 'Failure' Causing Violence

JN2310192490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Information Department, has called upon the United Nations and the Security Council to adopt a resolution securing international protection for the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories by sending UN-sponsored international forces to those territories. He also called on the Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel for its rejection of the resolution calling for the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories. He stressed that repeated postponement of the Security Council discussions will only aggravate the situation in those territories.

In a news conference he held in Amman today, he said the PLO believes that the world community and the Security Council should engage in a comprehensive treatment of the entire situation in the region, especially the Palestine question. Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh attributed the outburst of tension in the occupied Arab territories to the Israeli Government's policy of Judaizing Jerusalem, destroying its holy places, and abolishing its Palestinian, Islamic, and Christian character. It is also due to the failure of the Security Council and the international forces to assume their role in addressing the serious situation in the occupied Arab territories.

PFLP To Escalate Attacks in 'Coming Days'

JN2310161290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] issued a statement in Damascus in which it announced an escalation of Palestinian attacks against Israeli forces in the occupied territory in the coming days.

PLO's Al-Yahya on Intifadah, Self-Sufficiency

JN2110154690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Oct 90 Second Edition p 9

[Interview with Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member and its representative in Jordan, by Sa'd al-Silawi; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Silawi] It has been revealed that Saudi Arabia has stopped collecting funds to support the PLO, which had been deducted from the salaries of Palestinians working there at the rate of five percent. What has the PLO done in this regard?

[Al-Yahya] I have no information regarding this. If this is true, however, we think that it will be only a temporary measure that will be resolved because the PLO's policy is based on understanding rather than disagreements.

[Al-Silawi] It was said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's message to King Fahd conveyed by the Saudi foreign minister dealt with this matter.

[Al-Yahya] I have no information on the content of the message. Please excuse me from answering.

[Al-Silawi] What progress have Palestinian efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis made? Are you still optimistic about resolving it peacefully?

[Al-Yahya] From the beginning, the PLO has adopted a clear position on the Gulf crisis which enables us to move in all directions and help attain a peaceful solution, because we believe that the peaceful solution is the acceptable humanitarian solution that protects the nation and its wealth, prevents any losses, and at the same time helps maintain inter-Arab relations through understanding. It seems that the PLO's position was not fully understood at the beginning. Recently, however, most parties began to understand the important role played by the PLO, among them European and Arab states. We hope that the PLO's efforts in this regard, along with Arab and international movements, will be crowned with success by preventing war and reaching a peaceful solution.

[Al-Silawi] Many people believe that Israel will press ahead with its massacres of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, thus exploiting the state of Arab dismemberment. In this respect, will the intifadah escalate through the use of weapons? What is the PLO's plan if Israel continues to reject all peaceful efforts?

[Al-Yahya] Regarding the intifadah, we believe that Israel needs no cover for its crimes. Israel perpetrates such massacres continuously and openly, and with no need for any cover or exploitation of a certain situation. The massacres perpetrated by the occupation authorities against our people are continuous. The intifadah will continue to face the intransigent Israeli position until all national Palestinian rights are attained, foremost being the right to self-determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil. If this is not achieved the intifadah cannot stop. Escalation is always part of the short-term programs established for the intifadah. The form of the escalation does not mean the use of weapons, but rather a more massive mobilization at this particular stage in a manner that would help restore credibility to the international resolutions on the Palestine question, thus exploiting the current situation and the link between what is taking place in the Gulf and the Palestine question.

[Al-Silawi] Can we say that the Palestine National Council [PNC] will announce a new stage based on armed struggle?

[Al-Yahya] We have never stopped the armed struggle; no resolution, either by the Executive Committee or by the PNC, has been issued on stopping the armed struggle.

The Palestinian strategy defines the final aims, and we always work toward them with the best ways and means and the fewest possible losses. Therefore, escalating the intifadah is tied to these principles.

[Al-Silawi] In your capacity as the head of the Economic Department in the PLO, have you discussed with the Iraqi leadership the issue of the Palestinians working in Kuwait who were an important support for the intifadah?

[Al-Yahya] What befell other people befell the Palestinian group in Kuwait, yet the Palestinian group in Kuwait is the largest. In view of the leadership's awareness of what has happened to them, their affairs were left to committees that were formed from within them and will help them adapt to the current situation as soon as possible, without clamor, negative reactions, or abnormal conditions. Now, in light of the arrangements made and the reports that we have received, we can say that the Palestinian group is beginning to lead a normal, everyday life.

[Al-Silawi] Do these committees contact the Palestinian leadership on regular bases?

[Al-Yahya] Of course. The committees are linked to the PLO and are supervised by PLO officials. The Palestinians have returned to their jobs.

[Al-Silawi] In your capacity as head of the Education and Higher Education Departments, there are Palestinian students who are subjected to harassment in some Arab states. How will this issue be dealt with?

[Al-Yahya] We hope that the political issue and position will not have any effect on human relationships and the relations between the Palestinian people and their Arab brothers. We, however, cannot judge other people's reactions. Despite this, we adhere to self-restraint and to our principles. We try to forego such reactions through direct contact and other means. We can say that we were able to understand all the negative outcomes resulting from these reactions, and most problems were resolved.

[Al-Silawi] It has been said that the PLO is now passing through a period of financial trouble. How will this be overcome?

[Al-Yahya] The PLO's policy has long sought to achieve self-reliance within and outside the occupied territories, and to draw up various programs on the economic, educational and other levels to achieve independence. This issue powerfully emerged when all educational institutions were closed in occupied Palestine. Programs and preparations were made whereby education officials relied on themselves and on their capabilities, and were able, after a long struggle and cooperation with all the responsible Palestinian sides, to continue the march of education successfully and with no stopping at any stage. This is also true for some economic issues, in the agricultural sector in particular, where there are definite plans to attain self-sufficiency. [passage omitted]

PLO Official on League Meeting, U.S. Policy

JN2310162490 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 90 pp 1, 9

[Dispatch by Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Text] The PLO leadership met in Tunis to assess the outcome of the urgent Arab League Council meetings that were called by Palestine to discuss the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories following the bestial Zionist massacre at the Jerusalem holy mosque.

AL-JUMHURIYAH met in Tunis with PLO Executive Committee Member Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri] who described the Arab League resolutions as good and positive.

He said that the resolutions are a clear response to the Palestinian draft resolution, especially in terms of holding the United States responsible for disrupting the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and refusing to link all regional issues, particularly the paragraph on the need to deal with UN resolutions as a whole.

The Palestinian official expressed the PLO's appreciation of the Arab states that expressed clearer and firmer positions at the meetings; namely, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Jordan, in addition to the five Maghreb states. This collective position led to good results.

He added that the Arab League's presence in Tunis has unified the Arabs, whereas its presence in Cairo has divided them, as in the case of an earlier Arab League foreign ministers' meeting where only 13 members attended.

He stressed that the PLO was not surprised by the disruptive position of the pro-U.S. Arabs.

He said they were forced to retreat by Palestinian determination, which is supported by other Arab countries.

The Palestinian official noted the pro-U.S. Arabs' refusal to get involved in any issue concerning international legitimacy and its various resolutions on regional issues as a whole.

He pointed out that the United States, (Israel), and some Arab states are beginning to formulate a position that rejects, or rather fights, any signs to link the Gulf and the Palestine question.

He said that this was a major part of U.S. policy, which is working to create an alliance that serves its interests and disregards those of the Arab nation.

On the Zionist entity's official refusal to receive the fact-finding commission that the Security Council asked the UN secretary-general to dispatch to the occupied territories, the Palestinian official said: The PLO will call for an urgent Security Council meeting at which it will ask the following question: Does international legitimacy have double standards?

He added that the United States pushed the Security Council into passing rapid resolutions against fraternal Iraq during sessions lasting no more than 30 minutes. It is now preparing to adopt the ninth resolution. Meanwhile, we have seen another instance where the U.S. administration dealt a blow to, and insulted world public opinion, when it disrupted the draft resolution of the Nonaligned countries at the UN Security Council. Consequently, Resolution No. 672 was adopted, which is not adequate to address the situation in the occupied Palestinian land.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa added that Washington is now working to protect Israel by refusing to implement the incomplete resolution. The U.S. position is there for the entire world to question.

Request To Postpone League Transfer Accepted

JN2210191090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 22 Oct (INA)—The state of Palestine today informed the Arab League Secretariat of its official acceptance of the request made by the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union to postpone the implementation of the measures related to the transfer of the Arab League headquarters from Tunisia to Egypt at the current time.

A Palestinian source told the INA reporter in Tunis that the state of Palestine's acceptance of the request made by the Arab Maghreb states was to stress the need for the Arab League's independence and to preserve the minimum level of Arab reconciliation.

U.S. Envoy's 'Lies' on 'Arafat Visit Denied

JN2210170490 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1624 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source denied yesterday morning a Voice of America report on 20 October citing the U.S. ambassador to Qatar. The source said that brother President Yasir 'Arafat has not visited Qatar since the Baghdad Arab summit, and that the lies and falsehoods attributed to the U.S. Ambassador to Qatar are part of the U.S. plot to harm the reputation of the PLO and its leadership. Furthermore, these lies constitute a cheap attempt to drive a wedge between the Palestinian people and their leaders on one hand, and their Arab brothers on the other, and are part of the U.S. scheme against the Arab nation and its national causes.

The source said that since the Gulf crisis erupted, the PLO has been taking a responsible national and pan-Arab position aimed at sparing the region the scourge of war and bringing about a peaceful Arab solution to the crisis in a manner that preserves the dignity, rights, and blood of all parties and safeguards the Arab nation's future and overall security.

Palestinian Group Pledges Support to Resistance

PM2410093990 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 19 Oct 90 pp 1, 23

[Report by Jasib al-Shamri: "A Palestinian Hamas Official Tells AL-RIYAD: We Will Fight Alongside Kuwaiti Resistance"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—A prominent official from the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has expressed his movement's appreciation for the stances taken by Kuwait—both its leadership and its people—on the Arab issues, first and foremost the Palestinian people's cause. In a statement to AL-RIYAD the official said that no one can deny Kuwait's help for the Palestinian cause and continuing support for the Palestinian people.

The official revealed Hamas' participation with the Kuwaiti resistance in the struggle against the Iraqi aggressors since the early days of the brutal invasion. The official said that in the early days of the invasion the Hamas forces worked alone, but with the passage of time we arrived at a joint formula with the valiant Kuwaiti resistance.

The official emphasized that coordination over the past few days has developed into strong cooperation and mutual trust. The official affirmed that Hamas has inflicted losses on the Saddamite enemy in both lives and equipment, especially in the Hawalli and Nuqrah areas, which both have substantial Palestinian populations (350,000).

The official added that Hamas last week damaged at least seven army trucks and killed 13 Iraqi soldiers in that area. He added: Then elements from the Iraqi Army immediately embarked on an extensive search campaign in the area, but none of the Palestinian resistance elements was captured by the Iraqis.

The official emphasized that, proceeding from its ability to distinguish between truth and falsehood, Hamas has committed itself from the outset to backing the Kuwaiti people, because they have a a right and a just cause. And because we know that Kuwait has never denied the Palestinian people anything. The Kuwaiti people have always been a major support for the Palestinian cause and its continuation.

The official added: We have recently learned that the amir of Kuwait supported the children of the stones financially via many channels, but not the the PLO—as we have always requested. The official emphasized that Hamas will support the Kuwaiti people's just cause until every inch of Kuwaiti territory is liberated through the efforts of all sincere Muslims and Arabs. [passage omitted]

PLO Official Receives UK Ambassador to Tunis

LD2010201190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has urged sanctions against Israel and the need for the issuing of practical resolutions at the UN Security Council which might provide protection for our people in occupied Palestine.

Brother Abu-Lutf has also asserted the need for efforts leading to a speedy convening of an international conference in order to reach a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian problem. Those assertions were made when he received at the office of the PLO Political Department the UK ambassador to Tunis, with whom he examined the latest development in the situation in the Middle East following the Jerusalem and Rafah massacres, as well as the UN Security Council's subsequent deliberations on the matter and the Shamir government's refusal to implement Resolution 672. The talks also dealt with the serious development in the Gulf and the need to work toward finding a peaceful Arab solution. [passage indistinct]

The British ambassador asserted, furthermore, that what the Israeli mass media had reported, quoting British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, was unfounded.

Algeria

Hamrouche Says Debt Rescheduling Not Justified

LD2310194290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] In a statement to the evening newspaper HORIZONS, published today [23 October], the head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche, denied that Algeria will resort to rescheduling its foreign debts. Hamrouche explained that there is nothing to be gained from the rescheduling and that if Algeria takes that step it will lose the independence of its social and economic decisions and options. He said that, in the final analysis, such an operation will not resolve the debt problem. In his statement, the head of government pointed out the recent emergence of what he called maneuvers and demagoguery, which seek to undermine the government. He added that public opinion needs to know that fact. It is worth noting that reports were being circulated recently saying that the minister of the economy had sent a message or a document to the IMF which was tantamount to agreeing to the rescheduling of Algeria's foreign debts. This was strongly denied by the head of government in his statement to HORIZONS, at the end of which he stressed that there is no justification for rescheduling.

Legislator Meets Iraqi, Palestinian Union Leaders

LD2210115490 Algiers APS in English 1012 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Algiers, 22 Oct (APS)—Vice president of the People's National Assembly (APN), Said [name indistinct] received here yesterday the chairman of the General Union of the Iraqi Workers, Fadl Mahmud Gharib and the secretary general of the Palestinian Workers Union, Haydar Ibrahimi, in the presence of the secretary general of the Algerian Workers Union (U.G.T.A.) Abdelhak Benhamouda.

According to a communique issued by APN, the two delegations expressed the thanks of the Iraqi and Palestinian workers for the role played by Algeria in favour of the Arab and Islamic causes. They also stressed on the importance of the Algerian contribution to the efforts aiming at finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf conflict, to put an end to the blockade imposed Iraq and to support the Palestinian revolution and Intifadah.

Algiers Rally Supports Iraqi, Palestinian Causes

LD2210135690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Workers at Algiers Port organized a dock rally at noon today, in solidarity with the Palestinian and Iraqi peoples to denounce the foreign interference in the Gulf and the repressive practices in occupied Jerusalem. The rally was organized by the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA], with the participation of the presidents of the Iraqi Workers Trade Unions Federation and the General Federation of the Workers of Palestine.

UGTA Secretary General Abdelhak Benhamouda spoke to our colleague, Louisa Hadj Mousa, on organizing the rally:

[Benhamouda] "The rally that will take place today at Algiers Port will express support for and solidarity with the people of Iraq and with the Palestinian intifadah and the stone children. It falls within the realm of practical steps through the UGTA; we give our support a practical and real dimension.

"We previously boycotted the ship Napoleon because we considered it the symbol of aggression. Today's rally will affirm the cohesion of the Algerian workers, in general, and the ports' workers, in particular, with the people and workers of Iraq, and it falls within the framework of far-reaching strategic action. We will try to alleviate the siege on the people of Iraq, and also tell European public opinion that they have interests. The attitude of the Algerian workers is as much a humanitarian attitude as it is a political attitude, because we do not accept the idea that children should starve and that people should die just to topple a regime."

[Announcer] Here now is Fadl Mahmud Gharib, president of the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions:

[Unidentified reporter] "You are in Algeria on a mission. What message do you bring to Algeria?"

[Gharib] "First, we came to convey the greetings of the people of Iraq to the people of Algeria, to Radio Algeria, and to all good people. We also bring greetings from the children of Iraq, who Bush, the U.S. Administration, NATO members, and all the heretics want to deprive of milk. They also want an entire people starve, thereby violating all divine and earthly laws.

"It is the responsibility of every Algerian, just as feeding his babies is his responsibility, to remember that there are babies in Iraq that have no milk. The heretics have stopped milk from reaching them. Every sick man should remember as he takes his medicine that there are sick people in Iraq who have been prevented from obtaining medicine.

"We are now visiting Algeria; before that, we visited Tunisia, Jordan, and Libya. We plan to visit Morocco. So far, despite the passing of three days, we have been prevented from obtaining an entry visa to Morocco."

[Announcer] Here now is Haydar Ibrahimi, president of the General Federation of the Workers of Palestine, speaking about the rally in which he participated at noon today:

[Ibrahimi] "We visit Algeria to meet with the brothers of UGTA and of the working class and to meet with the officials of the Algerian state to bolster solidarity between Algeria and the Palestinian people, on the one hand, and between Algeria and the Iraq people, on the other; and to establish comprehensive Arab and international coordination in support of Iraq in the Gulf crisis and of the Palestinian people and the Palestine revolution and the PLO."

Social Democratic Leader Adjerid Reveals 'Plot'

LD2310153190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Abderrahmane Adjerid, leader of the Social Democratic Party, held a news conference at el-Safir Hotel [in Algiers] this morning during which he dealt with a number of national and international issues.

Mr. Adjerid expressed his disapproval of the way the investigation into the 26-billion-dinar affair was being conducted, saying: The time must be specified [as heard] and the same goes for the National Chamber of Commerce and the case of the lands which were illegally distributed. He also talked about the social crisis and declining living standards. In this respect he suggested the intervention of the government to alleviate the burden posed by these problems, particularly the rising cost of living with which the citizens are confronted.

Mr. Adjerid also revealed the existence of a serious plot which is being hatched against national sovereignty. This subject gave rise to long discussions in the hall. Mr. Adjerid then handed to representatives of the press details contained in a file he had compiled. He made the following statement on the matter to our reporter:

[Begin Adjerid recording] I have handed over files and documents which prove the existence—this is not an inquiry—of a plot aimed at severing a part of the national territory in the future if we are not vigilant. The reason is that the documents indicate that a particular group wants to put into question the Algerian identity. There is an organization, the Black Feet [Les Pieds-Noirs: French settlers who lived in Algeria], that wants to carry out a cultural, economic, and social project. The astonishing thing about this project is that it says, for example, that the inhabitants of Oran will be dealing with the Algerians. In other words, this means that the inhabitants of Oran are not Algerians. It is written in very clear and unambiguous language. Therefore, we said that the Algerian people should be made aware of the existence of this file and they should be vigilant in fighting this project, because national unity is absolute. The integrity of the national territory is another principle that we will never relinquish. [end recording]

Egypt

Cairo 'Refuses To Accept' Saudi Statement

LD2310210690 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2008 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, October 23 (TANJUG)—Egypt refuses to accept the statement by Saudi defense minister, Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who indirectly expressed readiness that Iraq be given some territories of Kuwait in exchange for a peaceful solution and its withdrawal from Kuwait.

This stand by Egyptian officials was evident in a statement given to TANJUG correspondent by an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman in Cairo today.

I only know that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia remained true to the previous stand of Riyadh only yesterday, and what the king says is more important than anything the Prince Sultan could say, the spokesman told TANJUG.

These controversial statements came from Saudi Arabia during Egyptian president Husni Mubarak's unplanned visit to Riyadh.

The Egyptian spokesman said that he did not think that any Arab country had changed its stand regarding the Iraqi invasion and the need for the complete withdrawal of occupation forces from Kuwait.

Things are now the same as before, so that we should wait and see how things will develop, he said.

Further on Al-Mahjub Assassination Aftermath

Security To Be Reviewed, Tightened

NC1810160390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that following the assassination of the late People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa gave instructions that plans to secure significant utilities and installations be reviewed to ensure their seriousness and effectiveness, provided that this is done in accordance with the law. The instructions were given as a precaution against possible terrorist operations which saboteurs might launch against these installations to destabilize Egypt.

MENA has learned also that the interior minister has instructed his senior police officers to pay more attention to field work practices, to monitor outlawed activities and confront them strictly, and to tighten their control on entry points to prevent terrorist elements from infiltrating the country.

The instructions also provide for measures to tighten the noose around the assassins of Dr. al-Mahjub and five security men to prevent them from leaving the country, apprehend them, and bring them to trial so they will be punished for their heinous crime.

Perpetrators Not Yet Identified

PM2210152790 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by Hamdi Shafiq and Salah al-Wakil: "No Evidence of Extremist Groups' Involvement"]

[Excerpt] State Security Prosecution for Investigation has arrested a Jordanian in al-Taqwa Mosque in Abu

Za'bal, Qalyubiyah. It was discovered that the suspect had sustained a bullet wound to the leg. Security is interrogating the Jordanian as part of efforts to determine suspects in the assassination of [People's Assembly Speaker] Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub.

Security sources denied a government newspaper's claim that one of the perpetrators had been identified. The sources emphasized that none of the suspects has yet been arrested. They also emphasized that the perpetrators have still not been positively identified. Nor has there been any evidence against any member of the extremist groups. The sources cited the continuation of search operations and the interrogation of large numbers of Palestinians arrested the night before last. The sources revealed that some Palestinians had provided important information which could help to identify the perpetrators. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Said Implicated

NC1910120890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1124 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has disclosed that 90 percent of the evidence gathered in connection with the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub indicates that the murderers are Palestinians not residing in Egypt who are all working for external terrorist organizations and who visit Egypt from time to time.

In a statement published today in AL-MASA' newspaper, the source said that the Interior Ministry is carefully looking into every report it receives about the case, regardless of its contents.

Three Suspects Detained

JN2110160690 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by Basyuni al-Halawani]

[Text] Police at Nuwaybi' have detained three persons suspected of being involved in the murder of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub. They are a Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian.

Meanwhile, 40 Palestinian and Jordanian suspects were questioned before being allowed to travel from the port, with the exception of a Palestinian whose description matched the composite sketch of one of the suspects, who was turned over to state security investigators.

'Surprising Evidence' Said Likely

JN2210065590 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 90 pp 1, 3

[Report by Hasan al-Sahyib]

[Excerpt] AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that the security services at the Interior Ministry now have specific details about the murder of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub that should lead to unraveling the mystery surrounding the incident. It is now known that six terrorists were involved, four of whom carried out the attack using 7.62 by 39 mm automatic guns, with the other two providing cover.

AL-JUMHURIYAH has further learned that two days ago, a Palestinian student strongly suspected of having been involved in the murder, was apprehended at a furnished apartment in Heliopolis. He is being investigated by state security.

Surprising evidence is likely to surface in the coming few days.

Forensic experts working under Brigadier General Hasanayn al-Dahshan, assistant interior minister, have examined the fingerprints of 1,500 suspects. They do not match the fingerprints taken from the scene of the murder.

It has been established from the examination of 120 spent bullets found at the scene that four automatic guns were used in the shooting. [passage omitted]

Specific Leads; No Accusations

NC2310151290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has asserted that the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and five security officers will not shake the security apparatus' self-confidence, nor will it affect its efficiency. He further emphasized that the assassination will not affect the atmosphere of safety and stability prevailing in Egypt under President Mubarak's leadership. In an interview with a MENA reporter, the interior minister said that security organs have not accused any specific group or individual of committing the crime. He asserted that the security organs are making constant efforts in more than one direction to apprehend the perpetrators.

The interior minister noted that the security organs have significant leads in the case which may enable them to locate the perpetrators, learn the circumstances of the crime, and expose those behind it so that they may be tried and punished. [passage omitted]

Elementary School Attack Linked to Kuwait Stance

PM2210150990 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 17 Oct 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Terror Strikes Again"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI—Cairo was yesterday surprised by a new incident, warning of an escalation in the series of terror attacks which started with the assassination of Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub last week. A time bomb exploded at a school, wounding 90 children, 70 of them seriously.

A number of Egyptian officials unanimously linked these incidents to Egypt's position on the Gulf crisis. It was announced yesterday that the director of Cairo Airport had been dismissed for negligence, "as investigations proved that two terrorist groups had entered Cairo via the airport."

A security report by AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI's reporter in Cairo says that a large explosion took place yesterday at the Imbabah Primary School in Imbabah, al-Jizah. The explosion, which caused panic in the area, resulted in 90 children being wounded, 20 of them sustaining minor injuries. Hospital sources said that 70 were seriously wounded.

Security organs moved to the incident site and the prosecution office began its inspection and inquiries. Some security sources believe it likely that the explosion occurred as a result of a hand grenade's being thrown inside the school while the pupils were leaving, in order to cause the greatest possible number of casualties.

Meanwhile, a QATARI NEWS AGENCY report from Cairo says that Egyptian security forces defused an explosive charge found at the entrance to a subway station in al-Tahrir Square, in downtown Cairo. [passage omitted]

Man With Weapons Arrested at Port Upon Entry

NC2410065790 Cairo MENA in English 2245 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct 23 (MENA)—A person, trying to enter into Egypt with three guns and two pistols hidden in his suitcases, was arrested by security agencies at Nuwaybi' port yesterday, said Major-General Muhammad Jantawi, first assistant interior minister for the central zone.

"The arrested person and weapons, found on him, have been referred to the state security prosecution for investigation," he said.

Official Interviewed on International Terrorism

NC2310210590 Cairo Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Interview with Major General Ahmad Jalal 'Izz-al-Din, assistant interior minister, vice president of the Police Academy, and adviser to the UN Secretariat on International Terrorism and Organized Crime, by Halah Abu-'Alam on "The World in Your Hands" program]

[Excerpts] [Abu-'Alam] Major General: Several terrorist operations and assassinations have taken place recently, such as the assassination of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub in Egypt, the assassination attempt against the German interior minister, and similar assassinations in Lebanon. My question is: When did terrorism start to constitute an international phenomenon, and what type of atmosphere promotes the spread of terrorism?

['Izz-al-Din] Terrorism as a phenomenon is associated with the political community—or more specifically, with political struggle—just as crime as a phenomenon is associated with the human community. As long as there is political struggle there will be terrorism, because terrorism is a violent aspect of the political struggle. [passage omitted]

[Abu-'Alam] After the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, can we say that Egypt has entered the age of terrorism?

['Izz-al-Din] Something can only be called a phenomenon if it describes a pattern within a specific time period. If we review the statistics on terrorism in Egypt, we find that there is an operation every 10, 12, or 15 years. Thus such operations do not reveal a pattern in Egypt. In London, for instance, in one period nine different terrorist operations took place in 20 minutes, so you can see the pattern there. Therefore, with an operation every 10 or 12 years, we cannot say that Egypt has entered the age of terrorism. However, there is something very serious about Egypt, and that is the magnitude of the enmity directed against Egypt for its principled stands. Egypt, by virtue of its location at the center of three continents and its cultural heritage, stands out in the region, and some parties seek to compete with it. All this leads to strong enmity being directed against Egypt, even if it is not openly demonstrated, because Egypt's excellence leads to efforts by some parties to challenge this excellence [words indistinct].

If we compare the magnitude of this enmity and the funds spent to plan and carry out operations inside Egypt with the number of actual operations, we will notice that the efforts to create some sort of instability in Egypt have failed completely. [passage omitted]

Rwandan Foreign Minister Bizimungu Visits

Arrives 20 Oct

NC2010074090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0643 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—Casimir Bizimungu, Rwandan minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo early this morning for talks with Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, during a visit which is to last several days. Upon his arrival, the Rwandan minister said that his talks will deal with ways of emerging from the crisis caused by the rebels in Rwanda. He said that this issue will be discussed at the Security Council meeting that Rwanda has requested. He pointed out that this visit is in line with the agreement reached between President Husni Mubarak and Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana during the latter's stopover at Cairo airport on 18 October.

Confers With Butrus Ghali

NC2010143090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1336 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, conferred here today with Rwandan Foreign Minister Casimir Bizimungu, who is currently visiting Cairo.

In a statement after the meeting, the Rwandan minister said he had briefed Dr. Ghali on the situation in Rwanda following the 1 October attack by gunmen coming from the neighboring country of Uganda. He noted that there is still fighting in the northeast of the country. He said the ongoing diplomatic consultations among the presidents of Egypt, France, Uganda, and Tanzania, and the Belgian prime minister will help find a peaceful solution to the problem so that the situation can return to normal.

The Rwandan minister pointed out that the foreign troops currently in Rwanda are there on a humanitarian mission to protect foreign nationals and are not taking part in any of the ongoing fighting there. He expressed his country's appreciation for the active diplomatic role Egypt is playing, a role which can help bring about a peaceful solution, whether through the OAU or through contacts among heads of states.

Meets With Defense Minister

NC2110131890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1248 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, received Rwandan Foreign Minister Casimir Bizimungu and his delegation at the Defense Ministry this morning. The meeting was held within the framework of bilateral consultations and talks.

The two sides discussed aspects of bilateral military cooperation in preparing and training Rwanda's military cadres.

Meets With Ghali Second Time

NC2110154990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The second round of talks between Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Rwandan Foreign Minister Casimir Bizimungu took place this morning. The minister [not further identified] emphasized the importance of containing the present crisis in Rwanda and the need to achieve a peaceful settlement between the government and the armed elements who have crossed the border.

The two ministers agreed on the need to use dialogue and negotiations as a way to achieve peace within the framework of OAU principles.

The Rwandan foreign minister stated that Egypt is a friendly state which is greatly interested in the achievement of stability and peace in Africa. Egypt, he said, has affirmed its readiness to hold contacts with the OAU and the countries concerned to restore calm and peace in Rwanda.

Departs After Two-Day Visit

NC2210075290 Cairo MENA in English 0618 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 22 (MENA)—Casimir Bizimungu, foreign minister of Rwanda, left here early this morning for home at the end of a two-day visit to Egypt.

While here, he had talks with Dr. Butrus Ghali, state minister for foreign affairs, on the current crisis between the governemnt and the rebels in Rwanda and means of solving it.

Iraqi Embassy Official Discusses Workers' Wages

JN2310194290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Oct 90 p 8

[Text] An official source at the Iraqi Embassy in Cairo has affirmed that Iraq stopped paying Egyptians workers' accumulated wages after the United States and its allies froze Iraqi assets abroad, and after the economic blockade was imposed on it. He added that Iraqi authorities have not [as published] decided to transfer the Egyptians' accruals to Jordanian banks instead of the al-Rafidayn Bank in Cairo.

Paper Says 'Zero Hour' Approaches in Gulf

NC2110070290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR asserts that numerous signs indicate that zero hour for the Gulf crisis is rapidly approaching and that preparations to implement the military option are proceeding silently. The paper says this is happening at the time that some statements are being made about the wish to give peace a chance until the last possible moment.

In an editorial in Sunday's edition 21 October], the paper notes that the two superpowers and the countries that continue to send forces to the Gulf are unanimous in rejecting any partial solution to the crisis and in stressing that the Iraqi dictator should not gain anything from his armed invasion of Kuwait. It points out that all parties have unwaveringly shared this view since Saddam Husayn's crime 80 days ago.

The paper remarks that if the fact that such a long time has gone by without a bullet's being fired to force Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait, suggests to his sick mind that time is working in his favor and that the passage of time will lead to a state of relaxation and soothe the aroused nerves everywhere in the world, this will be the last fatal mistake in the record of Saddam's life that is replete with errors.

In conclusion, the paper says that the only person who can influence the decision "to pursue the war option is Baghdad's ruler, if he regains his reason which he lost in an ill-omened moment." [sentence as received]

Developments Pertaining to 29 Nov Elections

President Chairs NDP Meeting

NC2110161390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with the members of the National Democratic Party's [NDP] General Secretariat Bureau at the presidential office this morning. The meeting was attended by NDP Secretary General Dr. Yusuf Wali, Assistant Secretaries Safwat al-Sharif, Kamal al-Shadhili, and Dr. Ahmad Salamah, and several chairmen of party committees.

Safwat al-Sharif stated that the discussion dealt with choosing the NDP candidates for the upcoming election. He said that 55 to 60 percent of the People's Assembly will be made up of new members and faces from all over the country.

He said that a careful selection was made of the candidates, taking into consideration their political and public service experience, their ties with the people, their acceptance by the masses, and their ability to shoulder responsibility and participate in debates on issues to be raised in the legislative assembly. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif said that President Husni Mubarak affirmed during the meeting that direct elections allow for a correct representation of the masses through the members of the new People's Assembly, and that the door is open to all citizens, be they party nominees or independents. There is no restriction on citizens' freedom to come forward to shoulder the trust of public service.

President Mubarak noted that the new election law provides all the guarantees for free elections which respect the will of the masses, whether in the nomination or election process. The elections will take place in a climate of respect for the law and the constitution, which serve and safeguard the rights and duties of all citizens. No party or individual will be allowed to commit any act of coercion or terrorism that can affect the integrity and honesty of the election process. Any violation designed to affect the freedom of the election or influence any citizen will be opposed with the full force of the law. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif expressed the NDP's hope that all parties participate in the election. He said that President Mubarak has repeatedly affirmed that the government has no interest in banning any election winner from entering the People's Assembly. He noted that the opposition was represented in the previous assembly by about 100 members, and that this experiment was successful.

Al-Sharif said: We hope that all the parties participate in the elections. They will be given opportunities to campaign on radio and television. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Endorses NDP Nominations

NC2110164890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Kamal al-Shadhili, assistant secretary general and secretary for organizational affairs in the National Democratic Party [NDP], has announced that President Husni Mubarak, in his capacity as NDP leader, today endorsed the party nominations for the People's Assembly elections. Nomination for the elections will begin in all governorates tomorrow. He added that the NDP has chosen to nominate 444 party leaders from the 222 constituencies. He added that the percentage of first-time party nominees is about 55 percent. This includes many younger people as well as experienced people with qualifications in various fields.

Al-Shadhili said that he held contacts with some of the opposition parties which had announced their refusal to run in the elections. He appealed to them to enter the election campaign and thus enhance the democratic process.

Boycott Issue Divides Opposition

LD2210123590 Tehran IRNA in English 1116 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Athens, Oct. 22, IRNA—Egypt's three leading opposition parties Sunday [21 October] decided to boycott 29 November general elections because the government has refused to offer guarantees for fair and just elections.

The decison by the new al-Wafd, the al-Ahrar (Liberals) and al-Amal (Labour), which is in alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood, not to take part in the elections has caused sharp differences inside party ranks and divided the opposition.

Another major party, the Tagammu, led by leftists and communists, and a number of smaller parties like the Umma, Misr al-Fatat, the Ittihad Party and the New Green Party are expected to participate in the elections, an Egyptian journalist from Cairo told IRNA by telephone.

A referendum on October 11 approved the dissolution of the parliament and paved the way for early elections, after the Supreme Constitutional Court last May ruled that the parliament was unconstitutionally elected because the electoral law favoured party candidates.

Many former opposition deputies, ignoring their parties' decision, have said they would run as independent candidates, signalling rebellion in party ranks.

Ibrahim Jafari, Mustafa Darwish and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Turki, all former deputies of al-Amal, said they will contest the elections as independents even if they were expelled by the party.

Turki, a vice general secretary of al-Amal, said the majority did not support the boycott.

Alwah Hafiz, a noted al-Wafd deputy, Ahmad Taha and Rifa'i Hamadah, former Wafd deputies, said they would run as independent candidates.

Mustafa al-Nahhas Amin, general secretary of al-Ahrar in the governorate of Bani Suyuf, said he will take part in the elections.

Only Ikhwan (Muslim Brotherhood) members said they would respect the decision of their leader to boycott the polls in which the ruling National Democratic Party is expected to win easily again.

"The opposition parties in Egypt are disintegrating," the journalist told IRNA. He pointed out that the opposition parties themselves had called for elections to be held on the individual-list system instead of the party-list system.

But now after the new electoral law has been passed, the opposition is rejecting the elections.

"They are boycotting elections because they know that they cannot win. The political parties in Egypt are just paper parties. There is no such thing as an opposition," he stressed.

A leading Muslim writer and Islamist Safi Na'z Kazim said she saw no difference whether opposition parties participated or not.

"I don't see any difference either to boycott or not to boycott. I don't regard elections or opposing elections seriously, because under emergency laws there is no sense in such things," Kazim underlined in a telephone interview with IRNA.

The new electoral law seems to have some positive points, according to the journalist. Under the previous law charges against election riggings, a common practice in Egypt, were not valid after six months from the day of polls, but now the six-month limit has been dropped.

He explained that the party-list system was in favour of the opposition. If, for example, an opposition party managed to get 10,000 votes from a constituency of 100,000 voters, it would win a seat in the parliament.

But now if an independent, backed by a party, gets 49 percent of the votes he would not get inside the People's Assembly.

The ruling Husni Mubarak regime does not care about the opposition whether they take part in elections or not. The journalist, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was a possibility that the opposition would review its stance.

Wafd, Labor, Liberals Will Boycott

NC2110172690 Cairo MENA in English 1628 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, October 21 (MENA)—The leaders of the Wafd, Labour, and Liberals' parties today stressed that their parties would boycott the new People's Assembly elections due to be held on November 29.

At their press conference today, the three leaders announced that any member of the three parties would be dismissed if he ran for those elections.

Ummah Party Will Participate

NC2210155390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Ummah Party leader Ahmad al-Sabahi has said that the party will take part in the People's Assembly elections which are slated to be held on 29 November. He added that the party will field approximately 30 candidates to contest 10 electoral districts because of its belief in the importance of democratic participation in elections.

Al-Sabahi said that the parties which declared a boycott of the elections do not appreciate the situation Egypt is currently experiencing. He noted that these parties' decision to boycott the elections is neither democratic nor in the interest of political action. He said that the reasons announced by the opposition parties for boycotting the elections are the same ones they used to enter the previous elections in which they gained 90 seats in the People's Assembly. He stressed that the opposition parties are boycotting the elections because they fear that they will not win these parliamentary seats based on the new system of direct elections.

Misr Al-Fatah Party To Participate

NC2310153190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—The new Misr al-Fatah Party has decided to participate in the coming elections for the People's Assembly and called on its members in the Republic to submit their nominations. [passage omitted]

Party leader 'Aliy-al-Din Salih said at a news conference today that the party is willing to accept the nomination of any Egyptian who wants to participate in the election campaign under the party's banner, including members of the opposition parties that have decided to boycott the elections. [passage omitted]

Greens Party Will Participate

NC2310152390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—The Egyptian Greens Party announced today that it will take part in the People's Assembly elections that will be held on 29 November. [passage omitted]

Party Secretary Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid said that the party presented an initial list of 18 candidates to participate in the election campaign in 18 electoral districts, and that it will present other lists to contest the seats in most districts. The party believes in the importance of political parties' participating in the election process, regardless of their views.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets Libya's Qadhdhaf-al-Damm

NC2010154990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm, general coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan ties. Following the meeting, Qadhdhaf-al-Damm said that he and 'Abd-al-Majid discussed current Arab issues in light of the continuing consultations between Egypt and Libya.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Information Committee

LD1910085390 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1955 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Address by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Information and Culture Committee, place and date not specified—recorded]

[Excerpts] In general, information is a problem throughout the world, especially in the backward countries. I do not think there is anything new to be said about information. [passage omitted]

I personally testify that these free newspapers are taking bribes. I testify that for 20 years Libya has been paying money to newspapers which were not Libyan and were in other countries, but it is impossible to name them. These newspapers are considered free in their countries, but we were paying them money. [passage omitted]

I do not want my name to be mentioned in your media because I do not need my name to be mentioned in your media. As for the rest of the world, the world knows me better than you, and perhaps I am mentioned there more than here. Familiarity breeds contempt. Personally I cannot psychologically bear to be in the media. I do not like to see my picture or a poem written by someone about me. [Passage indistinct]. If there is a song about me, I sometimes switch off the radio.

All these are things I do not like. Am I a candidate for the presidency? Am I forming a party and looking for popularity so that people come and join the party? [passage omitted]

In fact the media have caused me problems. [Passage indistinct]. I wish television would reconsider things and would not transmit for 12 hours. Transmit during specific hours. One day the whole world will restrict transmission, and you will follow it. Perhaps one day the world will not transmit as it does today. Perhaps the world will find that there is no need for this amount of transmission time and reduce it. The whole world might agree to restrict the transmission to limited hours, and you will say: We wish we had done this in 1990, then we would have been an example for the whole world. Wait for three, four, or five years, and you will find that all these radios of the world are not transmitting as they are doing now. They will be transmitting for two or three hours, and then they will close. Transmitting an hour, and closing. You do that. Say: O listeners everywhere, the Jamahiri Radio transmission will commence for one hour from such-and-such, then it will close and will resume transmission from such-and-such an hour, and it will contain a news bulletin and commentaries and so on. [passage omitted].

When the imam of the mosque stands on the rostrum, he stresses religious concepts. Every week the imam stands on the rostrum and makes a speech; he is not praying, he is making a speech, a religious speech, in order to deepen religious concepts. When this continues every week it means that religion is continuously being renewed. How can religion be renewed? It is being renewed by forming a party and reaching the seats of government. If we reach the seats of government, then it is not a religion any more. That is it; we will be working in politics; politics will distract us, and we will be sunk in hypocrisy and harm religion. Hypocrisy and deception.

The Saudi state is not a religion. Is it conceivable that religion brings the Americans? Therefore we say to the Saudis: For your benefit you must separate your state from religion and from Mecca. Your behavior as Saudis should be different from that of the holy mosques. If you are the custodian of the two holy mosques, how can you bring the Americans? This way you harm yourself. He is the custodian of the two holy mosques, or the protector of the two holy mosques. Can he bring the Americans to protect the two holy mosques? But as a head of state he has to bring the Americans. Why? Because he is afraid of Iraq. That is it. Explicitly. This is a political behavior, and whether you criticize it or support it, this is a different matter. You cannot blame him. We cannot say that this person has done something against God's orders. We can say that he has made a political mistake; he did not choose properly; he was hasty; he was right, or he allied himself with the devil. All these are alright if the position is political. A state called Saudi Arabia is afraid of invasion and asked for the help of another country. We argue with it away from religion, as a political discussion. But if we say the protector of the two holy mosques and the custodian of the Ka'bah and all these are protected by the Americans, half of whose soldiers are Jewish, then a problem appears because we mix politics with religion.

When we become rulers, we become politicians and no longer men of religion, even if we bring men of religion to rule. This is harmful to religion. Mecca, the house of God, is now disfigured. How can you protect it with American jets? Can we tell them not to protect Mecca? Can you ask for the help of the American forces to defend Saudi Arabia if it is exposed to an aggression, with the exception of the holy places? Then tomorrow, Iraq will walk into Mecca and Medina and take them. Why did he [King Fahd] say we ask for the help of the Americans to defend Saudi Arabia, with the exception of

Mecca and Medina, the holy places, and Mount Ararat, which have nothing to do with them. Is he not saying: I brought them to defend other lands and for political reasons, but as for the religious places, we can never use their help in defending them? Very well then, let the Iraqis take Mecca and Medina. Definitely, when Iraq advances toward Mecca, the Americans will confront the Iraqis because they have come to protect Saudi Arabia, and because Mecca is a part of Saudi Arabia. This is what is wrong. For the benefit of the Saudis, if they understand the words, it is for their benefit. They were angry, but I told them that it was for their benefit to separate Mecca. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on National Health Care

LD1910223590

[Editorial report] Tripoli Television Service in Arabic at 2004 GMT on 19 October, following the 1930 GMT newscast, airs an 85-minute recording of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's meeting with members of the Libyan General People's Committee for Health. Al-Qadhdhafi asks various questions about the committee's members and work. He then dwells on a number of points concerning the organization of the Libyan health service, asserting the need for Libyan doctors to shoulder their full responsibility and save money, as it is needed for other purposes. He says the United States and France spend their money on defense and strategic weaponry despite the fact that tens of thousands of their people are dying daily from lack of medical care, so Libyans should not expect better treatment than the citizens of those so-called developed countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi also speaks on the establishment of new committees for follow-up and control; treating Libyans in the country rather sending them abroad, because treatment abroad is very expensive and a huge burden to the Libyan treasury; eradicating nepotism from the medical practice; and Libyan doctors' rotating and spending time in the southern part of the country and taking better care of Libyan children.

Mauritania

PLO's 'Arafat Visits Nouakchott 23 October

Holds Discussions With Taya

AB2310180290 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian head of state, arrived in Nouakchott this morning. Soon after his arrival, the Palestinian head of state held discussions with Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state.

The Palestinian head of state was accompanied by a large delegation comprising (Fakhen Bedhaoui), member of the People's Central Committee; and (Idel Fakhen Dahat Akaren Ouehi), member of the PLO Revolutionary Council and adviser to the Palestinian head of state.

Departs After One-Day Visit

LD2310214290 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, this evening at the capital's airport bade farewell to Yasir 'Arafat, the head of the Palestinian State, who had arrived in the capital this morning. [passage omitted]

At the VIP lounge, the Palestinian president spoke to the national press about his visit. He said that he is very pleased with meeting the president, whom the Palestinian people and the Arab homeland generally regard with every appreciation and affection for his courageous and firm stances toward all issues in the homeland. He said that his talks with the head of state, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, addressed various current issues, including the Palestinian people's uprising, the Israeli authorities's attempts to surpress it, and their use of the Gulf crisis to tamper with the Islamic holy places. [passage omitted]

Rebel Group Claims 49 Killed in Operation

AB1410175590 Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Dakar, Oct 14 (AFP)—The African Liberation Forces of Mauritania said they killed 49 military and civilians in a guerrilla operation in the south of this north African country, according to press reports Sunday [14 October].

The operation took place on the night of September 26 in Bofel, a village located near the town of Boghe, the group said in a communique. It added that two guerrillas were killed and one was missing.

The communique said the Liberation Forces, an armed black opposition group, were intensifying their attacks because of the "systematic refusal of the racist regime of (President Maaouya Ould) Taya to install democracy and justice in the country and return their rights to the Negro-Mauritanians."

Eighty per cent of Mauritania's population of 1.9 million is composed of Arabic-speaking Moors and 20 per cent of blacks.

Claim Denied by Government

AB1510094490 Paris AFP in English 0836 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Nouakchott, Oct 15 (APF)—The Government of Mauritania on Sunday [14 October] denied a claim by a Mauritania rebel group that they had killed 49 soldiers and civilians in an attack in the south of the country late last month.

Information Minister Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed told AFP here that the report was "totally unfounded".

He added however that attacks by "bandits armed by Senegal"—which borders Mauritania to the south—and "cattle thieves" were continuing daily in the south of the country.

The African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (FLAM) said last week that they had attacked the village of Bofel, near the town of Boghe, on the night of September 26.

The rebel statement said that two FLAM guerrillas were missing after the attack.

The FLAM represents black Mauritanians, who make up some 20 percent of the population and live mainly in the south.

Eighty percent of the population are Moors, the Arab group which gave the country its name, and who dominate the regime.

In April last year Mauritania and Senegal fought a brief war sparked by racial tension on their border area between Moors and black Africans.

Says Blacks Arrested, Tortured

AB2110085490 Paris AFP in English 0826 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Dakar, Oct 21 (AFP)—Several Mauritanian blacks suspected of links to the African Liberation Front Forces of Mauritania (FLAM) guerrilla group have been arrested and are being tortured, the FLAM charged here Saturday [20 October].

A statement by the group said 39 people were arrested in the southern town of Fonde Diery last July. Several more arrested were detained recently in Boghe, also in southern Mauritania.

FLAM members said all those arrested had been tortured. They said 11 of the 39 arrested in Fonde Diery were undergoing severe torture at a police station in Bababe, a village midway between Fonde Diery and Boghe.

Blacks make up about one-third of the population. They have often complained of discrimation in the civil service and army by the majority Moors, who are of Arab and Berber extraction.

The statement said FLAM guerrillas attacked a military position in Hel Aida in the south last week, killing nine people. FLAM fighters last Sunday said they had mounted an attack in Bofal, in the south, killing 49 and destroying six vehicles. The government denied the claim.

Presidential Decree Reshuffles Cabinet Ministers

LD2210041690 Nouakohott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] The Military Committee for National Salvation Chairmanship announced that by virtue of a presidential decree issued today Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker has been appointed minister of finance; Mohamed Ould Michel minister of planning and employment; Soumare Oumar minister of commerce, handicrafts, and tourism; and Moustapha Ould Abeiderrahmane minister of water supply and energy.

Head of State Calls for Energy-Saving Measures

AB2210125590 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] The head of state has called on Mauritanians to reduce their energy consumption. In line with this, a campaign was launched last week by the Ministries of Water Resources and Energy with the cooperation of the media. As part of this campaign, Nouakchott residents have been asked to take part in large numbers in an original experiment tomorrow. Each consumer will be asked to put out unneeded indoor and outdoor lights between 2000 and 2010, and unplug other electrical appliances with the exception of refrigerators and freezers. They will be able to see the downward movement of the water gauge and the impact of the [word indistinct].

Morocco

Basis Set for Full Relations With South Africa

MB2210204690 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2029 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Report by Mark van der Velden]

[Text] Rabat Oct 22 SAPA—The foundations for full diplomatic relations with Morocco and an expansion of its trade links with South Africa were laid by President F.W. de Klerk on Monday [22 October] when he held extended talks in Rabat with this North African state's King Hassan II.

"I have no doubt that this visit has laid the foundation for a blossoming and good relationship between our two countries, because we have so much to offer each other," he said at a press conference on Monday night.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha, who arrived in Rabat on Monday morning with Mr. de Klerk, would be taking the matter further with his Moroccan counterpart, Mr. Abdellatif Filali.

This would be followed up by Mr. Filali paying a visit to South Africa soon.

Mr. de Klerk, who held over 90 minutes of talks with King Hassan, said discussions had been wide-ranging.

"We agreed in principle on the need, in the interests of both countries' people, to strengthen and expand bilateral relations.

"It was further agreed that the foreign ministers of both countries would use the opportunity of this visit to take the question of expanding bilateral relations further, and that this would be followed up with a visit to South Africa by the foreign minister of Morocco.

"Practical matters in this process include representation at diplomatic level between Morocco and South Africa, the expansion of trade, landing rights (for SAA [South African Airways]) and the right to overfly, and the availability of expertise in many fields," Mr. de Klerk said.

The president pointed to what he called the "symbolic signifcance" of the heads of states of the southernmost and northernmost African countries meeting.

Mr. de Klerk's predecessors, Mr. P.W. Botha and Mr. John Vorster, secretly visited Morocco in the past, but the official reception given to Mr. de Klerk marked a breakthrough in South Africa's public contact with the Arab world.

King Hassan, in his welcoming words to the president, noted it was officially a short working visit, but expressed the hope that the next visit would be longer and have full "state" status.

King Receives Message From UAE President

JN1810191590 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Rabat, Oct 18 (GNA)—King Hassan of Morocco, received here today Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, the United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of state for foreign affairs.

During the meeting, King Hassan Received a message on the situation in the Gulf region from Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the United Arab Emirates president, handed over to him by Rashid 'Abdallah.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Rebels, Integration With Libya

EA2210224090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1711 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Oct (SUNA)—Command Council Chairman and Defence Minister His Excellency 'Umar al-Bashir said the upcoming period would be that of the unconditioned peace in the country.

Addressing a graduation ceremony of the [figure indistinct] batch of university [words indistinct] Gen al-Bashir said diplomatic, political, military and economic steps would go in harmony for peace realisation in the Sudan. He said the Army was now prepared and ready to break the thorn of the rebels.

Gen al-Bashir has meanwhile said it was regrettable that a couple of (?persons) from the Army former leadership have chosen to join the rebel [word indistinct] open [word indistinct] (?opposition) front. He expressed regret that those now should go as deep down as to [word indistinct] the level of treason.

Gen al-Bashir told the ceremony Monday [22 October] that many rebels were convinced by the recommendations of the national dialogue conference on peace issues. He said many a rebel has sided with peace realisation in the country.

On the other hand Gen al-Bashir said Sudan was now heading for stability despite the pressure being exerted on it because of the decisions the revolution has taken. He said whatever be the pressure the revolution would never bargain on or sell out the fate of the nation.

The Command Council Chairman and Defence Minister Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has meanwhile praised Libyan international leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who is currently on [words indistinct] state visit to the Sudan. Gen al-Bashir said implementation steps of integration between Sudan and Libya have now taken shape which satisfy the aspiration of the two countries' people. He said this integration could be the nucleus for bringing together the dispersed Arab nation which has been torn up by the [word indistinct] interest of the colonisers.

Further on Visit by Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi

Attends War College Ceremony

EA2310190290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23rd October (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan leader and leader of the 1 September Revolution, yesterday (?attended) here the graduation ceremony of an induction of 23 cadets from the war college. The ceremony was also attended by members of the Libyan leader's delegation. The two leaders distributed prizes to the cadets, including six Palestinians, who graduated as members of the same induction. The prizes consisted of cups for good conduct and diligence, general culture, marksmanship, and physical training. During the ceremony, the defense minister and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces appointed the cadets to the rank of lieutenant. They subsequently swore the oath of allegiance and saluted the flag of the college on behalf of induction number 40.

More on Address at Conference

LD2310113690 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Brothers, we pause at this hour to mark and salute this historical anniversary, 21 October—a day that belongs not only to our Sudanese brothers, but to the history of our nation. It is one of the glorious days of our Arab nation. We would like to point out that the Sudanese people did not place on record only this day, but recorded immortal and honorable days in the history of the Arab nation and the history of Islam as well. The Sudanese people taught other nations the popular revolution. [applause] [passage omitted]

The Sudanese people, in the eyes of historians, are the teachers of revolution, and the Sudanese nation is a nation that has proved it is stronger than tanks, stronger than guns, and stronger than dictatorship. [applause] However, the new thing that deserves a pause is this: In the past, the Sudanese people staged a revolution and toppled a dictatorship. They now find that power has been stolen from them. They finds themselves compelled to stage another revolution, make more sacrifices, overthrow a dictatorship; and again, power is stolen from them and they repeat the process over again, relentlessly. This is a vicious circle [applause], and cannot continue. [passage omitted]

The truth is that this is a historic turning point. [passage omitted] It appears that the revolution staged by these patriotic sons of the Sudanese Armed Forces—it appears that things are different today, and that there is a determination, a will, and an awareness of experience, and that this people must not lose out once again. [passage omitted]

We used to grieve to see that our great Sudan was absent—not with us in any of the battles. This was not because it lacked potential, but because absenteeism was forced on it. This used to be the case along our other borders, with Tunisia. Tunisia was actually absent before the 7 November Revolution. It was completely absent. Its will was falsified. Only today has Tunisia become a living Arab nation.

Sudan—we sense that it has become alive—was a sleeping giant, a giant they tried to kill or force to remain asleep during the fascist and partisan eras. [passage omitted]

When we protect them, safeguard them, and support them, it is not for their sake but for the sake of their mission to the Sudanese people and to the Arab nation. [applause] [passage omitted]

I expect that the Sudanese people will enrichen the Jamahiri [state of the masses] theory. [applause] We might even learn from them, and they might introduce new concepts that (?have not taken place) in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Libya is a Jamahiriyah. Its system is Jamahiri. They fought it. They fought it. They tried (?their best to destroy it) and at last, now, the whole world cannot deny that the authority in Libya is in the hands of the people, and that the people rule themselves. Therefore, I expect that the Sudanese people will enhance the Jamahiri theory—the popular experiment—with new things, entrenching it still more deeply, giving it greater roots, and in general benefiting it. [passage omitted]

In European countries, parliaments are false. Only a very small group takes part in their elections, and sometimes only the members of the party take part in the elections. As for the other masses, they do not take part in the election of the president. Twenty percent of the American people—20 percent of those who have the right to vote—take part in the election of the U.S. President. The U.S. President at the time of elections—ordinary people do not pay attention to the elections [words indistinct]; they receive people's delegations, newsmen, students, educated persons, revolutionaries, tourists [words indistinct]. (?I say to them:) How can you elect someone mad like Reagan? They say: We did not elect him, and we did not take part [words indistinct]. [applause] [passage omitted]

This age is the space age. Today America is arming the planets to defend itself against the ICBM's. Today they are studying how they can use the laser beam and install it in artificial satellites which spin in space and cover America, the Atlantic Ocean, and Europe. If ICBM's are launched in the direction of the Atlantic Alliance, the laser beam, the space vehicles give a signal that there is a missile attack aimed at the West. The beam is sent to destroy these missiles.

This is the trend today, and not a man riding a horse [words indistinct]. They are thinking about how to arm outer space to defend themselves. Why do they defend themselves? It is so that they can continue to plow the land, manufacture things, learn things, and go dancing—do all this while they are assured that there are laser beams to give warning of any attack, and the beam would destroy the attack. [passage omitted]

You are sitting here while other nations have artificial satellites going around overhead, taking pictures of you. What is your feeling? It is like someone walking, and another riding a horse; or someone poor, and another rich; or someone living in a hut, and another living in a mansion. Here you are. You walk on your feet and you do not even have a plane that you have made yourselves. Other nations make artificial satellites, going around over our heads, taking pictures of our streets and our towns and all our movements, and passing this information to the information centers and the armed forces monitoring our movements. [passage omitted]

My commitment to the leadership of the international revolution was in fact prior to the revolution of 6 April. Garang himself was a member of the international center whose center is in Libya. We trained him and armed him so that the revolution might spread to all the Sudanese people in all Sudan, and to overthrow Numayri fascism in Sudan. We armed him as we used to arm Eritrea, urging it to rise up, and we trained it—we armed and trained all the Eritrean groups during the days of Haile Selassie [applause] so that he might fall and the revolution might spread in Ethiopia. When the revolution broke out in Ethiopia, however, we then stopped our backing and arming: We said then that the building of revolutionary Ethiopia, which is united with Eritrea or anyone else, should begin. The peaceful work began. When the popular revolution of 6 April which the

Sudanese people staged overthrew Numayri, we asked Garang to stop the fighting and unite with the revolutionary Sudanese people. Our aim was to spread the revolution in Sudan. And the revolution broke out in Khartoum and in all the regions. [passage omitted]

I am puzzled today: How can Garang continue to combat the popular authority in which he believes, and fight the popular revolution which he proclaimed? I will have contact this person so we may know whether or not Garang is still a revolutionary, and still a populist. [applause] If he is still a revolutionary and a populist, then he must not combat the popular revolution in Sudan, and should meet with us. If I found Garang to have changed—that he was not the revolutionary Garang, that he had became a different person—then I would tell him: I cannot but stand against you, and I will be with the Sudanese people to the end. [applause] [passage omitted]

If we debated the identity of Sudan—if we accepted the debate on the identity of Sudan—we would then debate the identity of Egypt, the identity of Morocco, the identity of Iraq, and the identity of Syria. We would be dismembered and become divided (?to no end). These are very serious matters. Their door is shut, in actual fact; we cannot enter into debate on them. [applause]

Egypt must understand that defending southern Sudan and defending Sudan's unity are a defense of Egypt. This is because if division were to triumph in Sudan and the identity of Sudan were reexamined, then the identity of Egypt, and its division, would automatically begin between Muslims and Copts, Arabs and non-Arabs. This is a serious matter.

Consequently, the forward position of Egypt's unity is Sudan. Egypt's depth is Sudan; Egypt must understand that defending Sudan is a defense of Egypt itself. Consequently, I rule out any Egyptian thought of harming the unity of Sudan, because this would harm Egypt itself. [passage omitted]

What I would like to say to you, brothers, at the end in this connection, is that we should not waste more time. We are facing huge challenges; serious threats are surrounding the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

If Arab unity is realized, the problem of southern Sudan will end; this issue will become dwarfed. If we isolate Sudan, however, the south issue will become a huge issue—I am talking about the south of Sudan, the south of the state. If there were one Arab nation, however, one Arab unity that included Egypt, Libya, and Sudan, the Arab Maghreb Union and North Africa; this south issue would become a mere drop in the ocean, and irrelevant. [passage omitted]

I am calling on peoples in Sudan, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, and all Arab countries to begin a peaceful demand for the abolition of imaginary borders separating the sons of the Arab nation, as of 1 January 1991. These borders are not stronger that the firm Berlin Wall that was imposed by force on the German people. The German people destroyed that wall, and Germany has been united. What is the Arab nation waiting for? This Arab nation is one nation and one people. Which is stronger: the imaginary borders separating Arab countries, or the Berlin Wall that was protected by aircraft, tanks, and missiles? In one single day, faced with the will of the German people, it was knocked down. All imaginary borders should collapse before the will of the Arab people.

Comments on Unity Before Departure

LD2310193390 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Before leaving Khartoum airport, the leader of the revolution made a statement in which he said: We studied the international and Arab situations as well as the situation between the two countries. We concluded from the course of events that it is imperative for us to review our past resolutions. We realize that there have been grave challenges and steps from the nations around us which are bound to affect us, such as German unity, European unity, and the Gulf problem which constitutes yet another threat, the problem of southern Sudan, the problem of Chad, and other problems which surround us and affect us.

The leader said: We felt it imperative for us to review some of our stands in order to speed up the steps leading to unity and to the elimination of borders. This call is not addressed to Sudan and Libya alone but to the entire Arab nation. In this regard he pointed out that the Arab Democratic Dialogue was held in Siirt and was attended by all the political factions in the Arab homeland, and that the conference had decided that as of 1 January 1991 peaceful processions and demonstrations will be staged in the Arab homeland to incite the student and working masses, the peasants, and all other factions to demand the elimination of borders and the establishment of Arab unity.

In his statement, the leader added: We felt that there is nothing to prevent the creation of immediate unity among a number of Arab countries, extending from Syria to Algeria to Sudan.

He said: At the end of this visit, I cannot but express my gratitude for the fraternal welcome I received from the Sudanese people and from members of the government and the Revolution Command Council, headed by brother Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir. We felt that we were in our homeland and among our kinsmen.

He said: As you have seen, the same tribes that exist in Sudan also exist in Libya. We all feel that we are in our own home and in our own country. I have great hopes because the people, God willing, will forge their way and, through unity, will overcome the problem of the south and the problem of backwardness. Unity will solve all of Sudan's problems.

The brother leader of the revolution affirmed that Libya is placing all its capabilities at the disposal of Sudan to form a historical watershed. There will be no turning back.

Replying to a question about the problem of southern Sudan, he said: As I have already announced, it is necessary to contact Garang to find out whether he is still a revolutionary. Sudan is a country that is revolutionary and Jamahiri [populist] moving toward the Jamahiriyah with determination and firmness. Garang has no alternative but to join this procession. But if he reneges, then he will not be Jamahiri nor a revolutionary, but embarking on an illegitimate secessionist action and plot which should be fought and destroyed. But before reaching this decision we must learn Garang's views on the decisive changes and developments in Sudan. If he is a revolutionary and a Jamahiri, then he will have no alternative but to join this cause.

In his statement, the leader said: Reconsideration of the integration steps could be replaced by contemplation of the creation of unity, instead of integration. This does not need time for completion. He pointed out that the issue of borders is a farce among members of one homeland. Talk about differences and disputes is mere lies. The Arab citizen is the same Arab citizen, and he lives in the same social conditions.

In conclusion, he said: There are no contradictions that should impede unity. There are imaginary borders and there are some secessionist rulers who want to isolate their peoples and dominate them. He pointed out that this does not exist in the countries I have just mentioned. There are no secessionist rulers in the countries about which we talked.

Concludes Four-Day Visit

EA2310153790 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23rd October (SUNA)—Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi left here today concluding a four-day visit to the country during which he took part in the country's celebrations marking the 26th anniversary of October [1964] Revolution.

During his stay here, Col Qadhdhafi held talks with chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council Gen 'Umar al-Bashir on aspects of co-operation between the two countries in all domains in the framework of the integration charter signed between the two countries.

Statement Issued on Visit

LD2310223490 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] A press statement was released today both in the great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Sudan following the fraternal, working, and unionist visit of the brother leader of the revolution to the fraternal Republic of Sudan. The statement said:

In celebration of the 26th anniversary of the popular October revolution and on the occasion of the conclusion of the national dialogue conference, at which the masses of the people in the fraternal Republic of Sudan decided to choose their political system that is embodied in the emergence of the people's authority—the authority of the popular congresses and committees.

At the invitation of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, leader of the National Salvation Revolution, and the trustee of Arab nationalism Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih revolution in the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah paid a fraternal, working, and unionist visit to the Republic of Sudan from 20 to 23 October 1990.

The leader of the great al-Fatih revolution was accorded a big official and popular welcome. Leading those who welcomed him was Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] of national salvation and the brother members of the RCC, ministers, and masses of the Sudanese people.

Profound talks were held between the two sides expressing the depth of the fraternal and historical ties between the two fraternal peoples. Agreement was reached on taking urgent steps to implement the proclamation of the merger between the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Sudan which was signed in Tripoli in March 1990; accelerating the unionist steps between the two countries; facilitating and implementing freedom of movement; and unifying the laws on the freedom of ownership, residence, and work for the citizens of the two fraternal countries.

It was also agreed to prepare executive and practical programs that lead to realizing self-sufficiency and food security through exploitation of the two countries' potentials. It was also agreed to take other measures that tend to advance the unionist steps, remove the fictitious frontiers that were drawn up by colonialism, and unify similar organizations in all fields. They affirmed at the same time that Arab unity has become, in the light of current international developments and the Zionist and imperialist onslaught, the shield that protects Pan-Arab security and participates in realizing the progress of the Arab nation and its deliverance from tutelage and hegemony.

The two sides expressed their absolute support for the struggle of the heroic Palestinian people and the establishment of their state on the soil of Palestine. They also expressed their support for the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people. They denounced the abominable crimes that are committed by the Zionist gang against the sons of the Palestinian people with the backing of international imperialism.

The two sides affirmed their keen desire to solve the Gulf crisis at the Arab level and within the framework of respecting international legitimacy. They condemned the foreign and colonial presence on Arab soil.

The two sides saluted the struggle of the people of South Africa against racial segregation. During this visit the trustee of Arab nationalism, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, spoke to members of the national dialogue about the political system and spoke to the members of the popular committees and the masses of students, workers, craftsmen, and professionals. He saluted the historical initiative of the masses of the Sudanese people and the salvation revolution and the beginning of their struggle to entrench people's power, popular authority, and the authority of the popular congresses and committees. He regarded this as the start of getting rid of the domination of individuals, and the domination of the party and factionalism. He blessed this historical choice. He affirmed the inevitable triumph of the peoples and their final deliverance from the yoke of enslavement, oppression, and tyranny.

The masses of the Sudanese people, through their meetings with the internationalist leader, expressed their total conviction in Arab unity, the authority of the people, and the struggle against all forms of imperialist domination.

At the end of the visit the brother leader of the great 1 September Revolution expressed his thanks and appreciation for the people of Sudan and the leader of the national salvation revolution, Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, and the brother members of the RCC for the warm reception and the generous hospitality and the unionist spirit which dominated all the meetings that took place between them. He wished progress and prosperity for Sudan and its revolution.

Ugandan Interior Minister Ibrahim Mukiibi Visits

Arrives With Delegation

EA1910185290 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19th oct (SUNA)—The Ugandan interior minister, Ibrahim Mukiibi Thursday (18 October) arrived here leading his country's delegation to the meetings of the joint ministerial committee between Sudan and Uganda scheduled for 20th to 22nd October.

The [Revolution Command Council] member and interior minister Gen. Faysal 'Ali Abu Salih, who received the Ugandan deputation at the airport has hailed the eternal relations between the Sudanese and the Ugandan peoples. Gen. Abu Salih has described the previous meetings of the joint ministerial committee between the two countries as "successful" and confirmed that the two sides would work towards realisation of more accomplishments.

Meanwhile, the Ugandan minister in press statements has hailed the bilateral ties between the two countries, besides the efforts being exerted by the joint ministerial committee concerning further development of relations and cooperation between Sudan and Uganda at different domains.

The Ugandan minister has further said his government will spare no effort for assisting Sudan realise a lasting peaceful settlement for the southern Sudan question.

Addresses Meeting

EA2210172090 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Excerpt] The [Ugandan] minister of internal affairs, Mr. Ibrahim Mukiibi, now in Khartoum for the ministerial joint commission on cooperation between Uganda and the Sudan, has said the NRM [National Resistance Movement] Government is convinced that the key to internal stability and good-neighborliness is to adopt a policy of genuine national reconciliation and the settlement of conflicts and disputes through dialogue. In a speech at the opening of the meeting, Mr. Mukiibi called on countries in the region to ensure the prevalence of peace and stability reinforced by bilateral cooperation and quick economic development and integration in the region. He highlighted the historical, geographical, and cultural bonds that characterize the relations between Sudan and Uganda.

He noted that despite the Moyo and Arua incidents, the two countries had achieved remarkable progress in strengthening bilateral cooperation. He informed the Sudanese delegation that Uganda has fulfilled its promise to remove Sudanese refugees from its border to more than 50 miles deeper in Uganda and called on the Sudanese authorities to reciprocate by removing the criminal elements on its side to deeper areas in Sudan. On transport and communications, Mr. Mukiibi called on the commission to work out desired and implementable arrangements to facilitate movement of goods, people and information between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Former Forces Chief on Stocks of Foreign Weaponry

PM0510113290 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Sa'idah Ramadan: "Sudanese Military Commander Confirms AL-WAFD Report: Iraqi Fighter Planes, Tanks, Scud Missiles in Sudan"]

[Text] Lieutenant General Ahmad Kawn Akun, former general commander of the Sudanese Popular Defense Forces and head of the southern Sudanese Ummah parties, [name transliterated, title as published] has emphasized that China has sent Sudan nine aircraft and that Yemen has sent five. Lt. Gen. Ahmad Kawn revealed the existence of large numbers of Iraqi fighter planes in Sudan. He pointed out that the aircraft were delivered dismantled in crates to a dock in Port Sudan and that they were subsequently assembled under supervision by Iraqi military experts. The Sudanese commander also revealed the existence of huge quantities of poison gas and chemical weapons in the underground stores of the Wadi Sayyidna military airfield. This is in addition to Scud missiles and chemical warheads.

Lt. Gen. Kawn confirmed the presence of Iraqi tanks in Sudan and Scud missiles in the Red Sea governorate in Port Sudan and in the military zone of Jubayt.

Embassy in Kenya Denies Impending Famine Reports

EA1710102490 Khartoun SUNA in English 0912 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum 16th October (SUNA)—The Sudanese Embassy in Kenya has refuted allegations published by the Kenyan "DAILY NATION" that thousands of Sudanese will face famine this year due to the cut by Western and Arab countries of their aid to Sudan for its support to Iraq. The embassy said in a statement published by the Kenyan daily yesterday that [the] agriculture minister had announced that the Sudan was expecting a good harvest this year contrary to the allegations. The statement described the allegations as sheer rumors being circulated by ill-intentioned circles to serve their interests.

Connecting on allegations made by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter that Sudan was not cooperating with the relief agencies working in the country, the embassy asserted that the U.N. secretary-general and the officials of Operation Lifeline themselves had commended the cooperation accorded by the government in this connection despite the violation by some agencies of the agreements organizing the relief work. The statement refuted Carter's allegation that the position adopted by Sudan towards the Gulf crisis had prompted the USA [and] Western and Arab countries to end their aid, saying that if these allegations were true they would show that the USA is using food as a weapon to force the Sudan to adopt policies similar to the American position.

Western Sahara

Perez de Cuellar Satisfied With Peace Process

LD1910225690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Oct 90

[Text] The Western Sahara issue: Perez de Cuellar, in his report to the UN General Assembly today, expressed his satisfaction over the development recorded in the peace process in the Western Sahara. The UN General Assembly considers the cooperation and the political will of both parties to the conflict, Morocco and the Polisario Front, as a sign that a solution to the conflict is drawing nearer. During the coming few weeks, Perez de Cuellar will submit a report to the UN Security Council on the financing of the self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara.

It is worth noting that during the past few days it has been stated that Morocco informed Perez de Cuellar of its reservations over some points included in the UN settlement plan. These reservations were disclosed today in Rabat. They are particularly related to the period and nature of the transitional phase preceding the referendum, the quarters responsible for safeguarding security, the referendum campaign, and lastly, the cease-fire.

Kuwait

KUNA Reports on Local Conditions

LD2310150890 London KUNA in Arabic 1337 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Al-Khafji [Saudi Arabia] 23 Oct (KUNA)—According to reports received from occupied Kuwait, Iraq has been carrying out systematic looting of Kuwaiti oil refineries and advanced technological equipment in Kuwait and the Iraqi forces are being redeployed in several parts of north and west Kuwait.

In statements to KUNA here, Kuwaitis forced by the Iraqi occupation to leave their country said that one of the familiar sights these days was to see oil tankers laden with Kuwaiti oil moving toward Iraq or the Jordanian borders, and trucks carrying all sorts of goods and equipment stolen from Kuwait moving daily to Iraq.

Between 10 to 15 Kuwaiti cars arrive daily at al-Khafji. The occupants of these cars say that they were subjected to rigorous interrogation and undescribable insults and that few of them could pass the border control points without their travel documents being confiscated by the Iraqis or could escape atrocities on a charge of being military suspects.

One of the travelers said that the Iraqi forces are now concentrating in al-Jahra' and its western suburbs in an area extending from the horse-racing grounds to al-Salmi and the Saudi borders and that another dense concentration of troops can be seen at al-Mitla' and the northern region of Kuwait.

It was stated that Iraqi military workers for some time have been constructing buildings for no known purpose and that these buildings are surrounded with barbed wires. They are concentrated between al-Mitla' and the al-Mabdali post, which is reported to have been completely demolished. [passage omitted]

Amir To Visit Paris, Meet With Mitterrand

LD2010200390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, is to pay a one-day visit to Paris next Monday. His Highness Shaykh Jabir will hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, that are expected to focus on the Arab Gulf crisis trigged by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the efforts underway to solve this crisis.

Reportage on France Visit

WA2310183090

For reportage on the visit by Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahamad al-Sabah to France, including reports on his talks with President Francois Mitterrand, please see the FRANCE section of the 23 October West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Amir Leaves London After 'Successful' Talks

LD2410093590 London KUNA in Arabic 0905 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] London, 24 Oct—The amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and members of his delegation left London this morning following a successful business visit to the United Kingdom, during which he discussed with British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher the question of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Reportage on UK Visit

For UK and Kuwaiti reportage on the visit to London by the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir, including talks with UK Prime Minister Margarat Thatcher and UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, please see the United Kingdom section of the 24 October West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Reaffirms Stance on Gulf Crisis

LD2410093890 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Replying to a question from SPA yesterday about allegations by some Western media concerning the Saudi stance on the Arabian Gulf crisis, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, stressed that the explicit and decisive stance declared by Saudi Arabia toward Iraq's criminal aggression against fraternal Kuwait is firm, irrevocable, clear, and unambiguous.

He said: We have explained this stance of ours, which is based on the following factors:

1. Condemnation of the blatant Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and rejection of all the measures that stemmed from that aggression, because they contradict all international traditions, Islamic teachings, human values, and Arab ethnics.

2. Complete commitment to the resolution of the Arab extraordinary summit, which was held in Cairo on 10 August, and confirmed the resolution of the Arab League Council, adopted on 3 August, and the resolution of the Islamic Conference Organization, adopted on 4 August, as well as complete commitment to UN Security Council Resolutions 660, 661, and 662 and the resolutions which followed them concerning the Gulf crisis. These resolutions are the expression of international legitimacy.

3. Emphasis on the demand for the immediate withdrawal of the invading Iraqi forces from all Kuwaiti territories and the restoration of the legitimate authority represented by the Kuwaiti Government led by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, thus restoring the situation to what it was before 2 August.

4. The withdrawal of all the Iraqi troops stationed on the Saudi borders, together with ensuring that there will be no repetition of the Iraqi ruler's aggression against any Arab Gulf country.

King Fahd Bin-'abd-al-'Aziz concluded his statement by saying: These are the firm bases on which the Saudi stance toward the Arabian Gulf crisis is founded. The stance is not subject to any change or negotiations in any of its details. Outside this clear framework, no attention should be paid to anything that has been said or is being said by the media, predicting or interpreting our stance on the Gulf crisis, because it is completely unfounded.

Defense Minister Comments on Settling Crisis

LD2310035590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2005 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 22 Oct (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, said that the peace being urged by all peace-loving states should not be the protector of the law of the jungle.

His royal highness, while receiving a group of local newspaper editors and Arab journalists yesterday, said: "Everyone is searching for peace, but peace that is built on right, justice, the return of matters to their rightful place, and support of the right of man to live in dignity in his homeland."

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz said that the flames of war began on last 2 August with the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. This was the beginning of war.

His royal highness also said: "The parasol of peace came with the influx of the Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces that came to assist peace, as represented by the Saudi Armed forces, which aim at peace with all their capabilities."

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz added: "We are in front of the flames of war, which were lit through the use of the dangerous machinery that was built in an Arab country to defend the Arab homeland and guard national security, as had been decided at the Baghdad summit which preceded the invasion."

His royal highness went on to say: "We were all surprised by these devastating weapons that we were and still are proud of. We hope they will return to their place so that they can be viewed in the right way."

His royal highness added: "We were surprised by the invasion that represented the beginning of the flame."

His royal highness the prince said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its brother Arabs and Muslims, and the whole world endeavor to achieve peace through the decisive [Un Security Council] resolutions, which call for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces that occupy Kuwait, the return of legitimacy to the people and State of Kuwait, and the withdrawal of all Iraqi forces that have been massed either at the border of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, near the Gulf states, in Kuwait, or anywhere else.

His royal highness said: "We think that peace and not war now dominate." However, his royal highness added: "We all know that everything has a limit. If the law of the jungle prevails under the shadow of peace, then the latter should not be a protector of the law of the jungle."

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz went on to say: "In my view, this is at the core of every official's thoughts whether among the leadership and peoples of the Arab and Islamic homelands, or the international community as represented by the UN Security Council."

His royal highness pointed out that the peace sought by all is built on right and justice. He said: "These are our thoughts and expressions on how the war began and how peace has prevailed." He added: "But the establishment and promotion of the law of the jungle should not be permitted under the shadow of the forces that are here to confront the law of the jungle."

Concerning His royal highness's view on the completion of the deployment of the brotherly and friendly forces that have come to assist the Kingdom, and their readiness to confront the aggression, His royal highness said: "In fact, I always like to be frank. They say war is [word indistinct] rumors."

His royal highness added: "We do not think that Iraq does not possess a devastating force. It possesses a devastating force. However, we should be realistic for Iraq does not have the forces to match the states of the world. If this were the case then the world would be stupid to confront a force that is greater than its own."

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz strongly rejected any form of ending the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait that does not conform to the Cairo emergency Arab summit and the Security Council resolutions, which are all based on the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces and the return of legitimacy to Kuwait. He stresed that any solution that does not include these established elements is unacceptable. [passage omitted]

His royal highness pointed out that there is no new plan in existence or being debated currently by the world, whether via the Security Council or the Arab League. His royal highness said that there are thoughts being raised and those who raise them know that these solutions are unacceptable. A solution that does not conform to the unconditional withdrawal and the return of legitimacy is unacceptable and rejected by the Gulf countries in particular, and by the majority of the Arab nation, according to the Arab summit, and the clear resolutions of the Security Council in general.

His royal highness added: If Iraq has claims we will all respond. He went on to say: Any Arab who has a claim against his Arab brother must take that claim in a magnanimous way rather then by using force. [passage omitted]

His royal highness added: I would like to stress that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in particular has said and is still saying that it is a proponent of giving people what is rightly theirs and a proponent of pan-Arab security, which includes brother Arab concessions, whether a claim is an established one or doubtful. His royal highness went on to say: Any claim taken by an Arab from another with his consent is a source of pride to the Arab nation, and there is no harm in an Arab country giving its sisterly Arab anything—be it land, money, or a sea inlet. His royal highness said: In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's policy with its brother Arab neighbors in drawing borders in all Arab regions we have given parts of our terrirtorial waters to our Arab brothers magnanimously. We consider any place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as an Arab place, and for Arabs themselves. His royal highness pointed out that this should come through fair means, good manners, and the prevalence of amity and fraternity.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan talked about peace and confrontation options to end the crisis in the region. His royal highness believes that wisdom and Arab national and public interests will decide this. His royal highness told a group of journalists: As you know I am one of those who serves the armed forces. I am a military man but I share with my brother military men. [as received] His royal highness added: Any peace or war pinned down to a specific time would entail a lack of military assessment, that is, if we specify a month for any person or for any country or prominent person, we might embarrass that person. [sentence as received]

His royal highness continued: In my opinion and in the opinion of the military, it is not admissible to specify a time perhaps because hours would be very valuable, more so than days in specifying the time and because wisdom, and going back to Arab, national, and public interests would decide that. [passage omitted] His royal highness stressed that the economic embargo is the logic of peace and not the logic of war.

His royal highness said: The people and army of Iraq must reaffirm their Arabism and their wisdom. The Iraqi leadership will not be harmed by withdrawing from a brotherly Arab country and by saving the blood of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

His royal highness opposes the idea of the Arabian Gulf or Arab countries entering into alliances with foreign countries. He said: Alliances between an Arab country and a foreign state are absolutely not in the cards and this is unacceptable and has not been discussed in any way. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan expressed his conviction that what is required is not unity. He pointed out that unity has failed in previous experiments. His royal highness said: Unity is the unity of objective and responsibility and the unity of conscience and good intentions. [passage omitted]

When he was asked about the presence of some coolness in relations between the Kingdom and Yemen since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, his royal highness said: Please address this question to the Yemeni Government because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not done anything against Yemen. He pointed to the Kingdom's measure of amending the state of Yemeni residents in the kingdom. His royal highness said: We have done nothing but equal the brother Yemeni man to his brother Arab man. His royal highness added: It is not a dishonor to equal brother Arabs in the same arena and scale. We regard that as an honor. His royal highness continued: They did us wrong in Yemen with abuse, journalism, official speeches, radio, television, and demonstrations, none of which are justified for a sisterly state that has been building Yemen for 25 years. [passage omitted]

His royal highness said that there are no problems between the Kingdom and Yemen regarding the border or anything else. He stressed that there is no truth in that. He said: We all realize that the other's interest is in amity, peace, and harmony. [passage omitted]

His royal highness said that there is complete coordination between the commands of the joint forces deployed in the Kingdom and the Saudi joint command which serves all [joint forces' commands] and coordinates among all. His royal highness pointed to the joint exercises being carried out continually by the forces. He stressed that there are no differences among all the forces.

In reply to a question on the war decision, his royal highness said: It is common knowledge that every force has a supreme command and that every head of state is the supreme commander of the armed forces. The authority of the supreme commander over his armed forces, whether small or large, must not be ignored under any circumstances. He explained that there is an agreed system and bases in the event of war. In the event of a declaration of war there would be something and in the event of continuity there would be something else. He pointed out that with the existence of modern means of communications the outbreak of war would be in seconds, after which the field commander would lead the operation because it would be difficult for the field commander to refer to his superior every second. There are recognized bases and strategies. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Mubarak Praises Bilateral Relations

LD2310120190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Hafr al-Batin, 23 Oct (SPA)—His Excellency President Husni Mubarak of Egypt praised the strong Saudi-Egyptian relations and the special relations between him and his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

In a statement made yesterday following his visit to Egyptian troops present in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as part of the multinational forces, his excellency said: I am very pleased to visit Saudi Arabia, a country with which I have had long-standing relations. His excellency added: I am very happy to meet my brother Prince Muhammad Bin Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Lieutenant General Khalid Bin Sultan, and to visit the Egyptian forces which are part of the multinational forces contributing to defending this country, which is near to us all.

President Mubarak went on to say: I am very satisfied with the current position, and happy with the moral state of our forces and of our Saudi brothers in this region. This is a very significant point, regarding the state, moral, defensive, and fighting capabilities of the armed forces.

The Egyptian president said: We did not need all this, as the Arab nation, before 2 August, had reached a degree of reconciliation and amity, and we were trying to heal the rift. Regrettably, unbelievable things happened. What has happened is very painful, as an Arab devoured his brother Arab. Why?

His excellency pointed to the honorable stance of the state of Kuwait regarding Iraq, and its backing as well as that of Gulf countries for Iraq during its times of hardship. His excellency stressed that the invasion and that changing a regime by force is an extremely serious principle. He said: We hope that this matter will end, and that Kuwait becomes a sovereign and independent state, with Kuwaiti legitimacy restored. I hope that this will take place soon, instead of war and destruction.

He went on to say: If another country attacked and occupied Iraq, Egypt and the Arab states would have taken the same position as the one they did with Kuwait. His excellency pointed out the defeatist stance of some Arab states on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said: I hope that these countries, which are still hesitant for some reason or another, will modify their positions. We do not want to accuse them of anything. However, we pray to God to guide us on the right path, and that these countries will puruse the policy of principle, logic and sense.

Prince Sultan Receives Egyptian Counterpart

LD2310185590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general [Prince Sultan] this afternoon received at his palace in Jeddah the Egyptian defense minister, Lieutenant General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib and members of his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Prince 'Abd al-Rahman Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy minister of defense and aviation and inspector general; Prince Fahd bin 'Abdallah, the assistant minister of defense and aviation for civil aviation affairs; Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the commander of the joint forces and operations theater, and a number of senior armed forces [officers] and the Saudi military attache in fraternal Arab Egypt Staff Tech Brigadier General 'Abdallah Bin Ibrahim al-Dayil.

At the end of the meeting, presents were exchanged.

Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz received at his palace in Jeddah this afternoon chief of staff of the American Joint Staff, General Powell. The meeting was attended by Prince 'Abd al-Rahman Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy minister of defense and aviation and inspector general.

Iran, Iraq 'Secret Agreement' on Gulf Claimed

PM1910140190 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 16 Oct 90 p 3

[Unattributed "exclusive" report: "Iran-Saddam Plot, from 'Maximum Agreement' to 'Phase of Suspicion'"]

[Text] Grave secrets have been uncovered over the past two weeks about a new alliance carefully planned between the rulers of Tehran and Baghdad in Larnaca, the capital of Cyprus [as published], and consolidated with the exchange of secret visits between the two capitals.

'UKAZ has learned from informed sources that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn first contacted 'Ali Khamene'i immediately after Khomeyni's death. He offered his condolences and congratulated him on his election as the new supreme guide of Iran. That was three days after the announcement of that election.

The Iraqi president expressed to the new guide of the Iranian revolution his country's willingness to withdraw from all the Iranian territories as soon as possible. He and the new guide also agreed to maintain contacts between them to fulfill that objective.

Two months after that contact, 'Ali Mohtashemi met with the Iraqi ambassador to Lebanon in Beirut by prior arrangement. They discussed details of the Iraqi offer. The [Iraqi] ambassador was summoned to Baghdad two weeks before Mohtashemi's arrival in Beirut and was given all the details of the Iraqi offer to Iran.

The informed sources said that Iraq was prepared (in the beginning) to withdraw from all the Iranian territories and to exchange prisoners of war within three weeks of the signing of the agreement, but the Iranian side insisted that the withdrawal and exchange of prisoners should be coupled with a clear and public Iraqi recognition of the 1975 agreement dropping all Iraqi claims to the Shatt al-'Arab in return for a new era of full cooperation between the two countries. The talks stopped there, however, when the Iraqi side objected to the Iranian request. The two sides agreed to meet again.

It was not long before Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, contacted his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati. They agreed to meet secretly somewhere to be specified by Tehran, although the Iraqi minister had, for unknown reasons, suggested Geneva. The Iranian side did not object to a meeting in Geneva, but it wished to know what ideas Iraq intended to propose to ensure that the meeting was useful and fruitful.

Tariq 'Aziz told his Iranian counterpart that his country wished to restore full relations with Iran as soon as possible and was prepared to accept the Iranian terms in return for a strategic alliance between the two, with emphasis on:

—Full and comprehensive coordination on petroleum issues;

—An effort to wrest the two holy mosques from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

—An end to Iraqi claims to the Shatt al-'Arab in return for a final peace and good-neighborliness agreement between the two sides;

—Joint arrangements to draw a new political map in the Gulf region serving the common interests of the two states and the interests of the (so-called) oppressed people of the world. A meeting was in fact held on 11 Dhu al-Hijjah 1410 corresponding to 3 July 1990 but, to the surprise of the Iraqi side, the Iranian side submitted a plan of action to be added to the Iraqi ideas. It included:

—joint coordination to isolate the West from the Gulf region and persuade it to agree to a prominent role for the two states in return for fully securing Western interests in the Gulf;

—the exclusion of all other Arab parties from all parts of the agreement to prevent leakage of information and a future conflict of interests;

—agreement to escalate acts of revenge inside the so-called (reactionary) Arab states;

—an increased level of coordination with the PLO in pursuit of objectives to be specified later;

—the coordination of armament policies and nuclear superiority [as published] programs to ensure absolute military superiority.

When the meeting began the Iraqis noticed that the Iranians had military experts among their representatives. As a result, the first meeting was postponed for six hours in the hope of arriving at a common understanding regarding the need to confine the meetings to the foreign ministers. The disagreement was contained after a lengthy two-day meeting. It was not immediately known what the two sides agreed.

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The informed sources, however, have confirmed that Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn met on the borders on Saturday 6 Muharram 1411 corresponding to 28 July 1990 and agreed to conclude two agreements, one secret and the other public.

As revealed by the informed sources to 'UKAZ, the secret agreement includes the following articles:

1. Iraq openly and frankly accepts the Iranian president's proposals included in his letter to the Iraqi president of 8 August 1990 handed to Iraqi representative Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti (Saddam Husayn's brother) by Iranian representative Cyrus Naseri, calling for confirmation of the 1975 agreement and the forfeiting of all Iraqi claims to the Shatt al-'Arab and other areas.

2. It is agreed to exchange Iranian and Iraqi (only) prisoners of war.

3. The prisoners of war of other countries are to be kept for security and political reasons, until such time as the two countries decide other alternatives.

4. The sides are to work jointly to (so-called) liberate the holy lands in Mecca and al-Madinah, wrest them from the Saudi Government, and set up an Iranian Islamic administration in them.

5. It is agreed to redraw the borders between the two sides on the basis of their new interests after enabling Iraq to (so-called) regain Kuwait and the areas of al-Hasa, al-Dammam, and Dhahran, with Iran (so-called) regaining Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

6. Immediate contacts are to be made with the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Japan, and the Soviet Union to neutralize their positions on the Iraqi-Iranian movements, give them sufficient assurances, and undertake to secure their oil and strategic interests in the region.

7. The Israeli side is to be neutralized by contacting it and emphasizing the two countries' sincere desire to settle the Palestinian question in its favor and to settle the refugee problem and provide an alternative homeland for the Palestinians in return for an Israeli recognition of the Palestinian people's right to live in peace in Jordan as an independent state.

8. The two countries pledge that no other country in the region shall participate in any phase of the joint action in implementation of the plan (particularly Jordan, Syria, and Libya) to avoid arousing their fears or sensitivities regarding their movements.

9. The two sides are to share the oil royalties of Kuwait, the UAE, and the eastern region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (for two years) in accordance with specific agreements to be discussed in detail later on.

10. (Two years) later the Iraqi forces are to withdraw from the eastern region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Iran's favor in return for Iran's forfeiting all its rights, claims, and benefits in Kuwait under the agreement, provided that Iraq gets 25 percent of the oil revenues of the eastern region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after its annexation to Iran.

11. The two sides promise to pursue oil policies that take into consideration their joint interests and to seek to reduce production and increase prices to compensate the two countries for their war losses and to convince the OPEC states of that line and not to surrender to Western pressures or interests.

12. The two countries pledge to confront all forces hostile to their interests in the region and to be in complete solidarity with any side which might contribute to the fulfillment of this plan after full consultation between the two countries.

13. The two countries pledge to work jointly to safeguard their interests in the region and elsewhere and to form a unified organization to take any necessary action to achieve that objective, and also to finance and activate this move to obstruct any foreign hostile measures or attitudes.

14. The two countries are to honor their commitments in complete secrecy and form a joint emergency council with headquarters in Tehran to oversee work and coordination between the two countries. It is to begin its work a week from now and consist of three members from each side.

The two presidents signed this secret agreement and each went back to his own country and began observing events and developments with a view to implementing the agreement. The foreign ministers of the two countries paid numerous visits to a number of Arab and European capitals and held a series of secret meetings with some terrorist organizations and opposition figures abroad, and they implemented more than one agreement.

Although 1 August 1990 was set for the beginning of the action, the delay confused the Iranian leadership and made it suspect the Iraqi president's intentions. Signs of confusion also began to appear in the attitude of the Iraqis.

When the Iranians heard that the Iraqi president had told some Arab states about some aspects of the agreement with Tehran without prior consultation with them, and that he had decided to postpone action without prior consultation, and as the secret agreement between them became "exposed" particularly after the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia decided to invite Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces to its territory to support its own Armed Forces and deter the threat from outside, and for technical reasons related to both sides, there was a contact between the Iraqi and Iranian presidents on 3 August 1990 and they agreed to freeze the agreement concluded between them, with Iran announcing its objection to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and opposition to any change in the region's map.

Iran then approved all the Security Council resolutions against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait to prevent exposure of Iran's collusion with Iraq and keep it away from the eyes of the intelligence services and out of the news throughout the world.

It was noticed that these Iranian postures came after the Iraqi president's announcement of his withdrawal from Iran and acceptance of the 1975 agreement and effects resulting from it. That was on 24 Muharram 1411 corresponding to 16 August 1990. That left a false impression in the minds of observers about Iran's rejection of Iraqi temptations, while Iraq's puzzling agreement to make all these concessions remained incomprehensible to many people.

In order to maintain their secret alliance, awaiting the right time to implement the rest of the plan, the two countries agreed that Iran would help Iraq face the international blockade and provide its needs in an appropriate way. At the same time, Baghdad opened a dialogue with Israel through Tehran to obtain the necessary spare parts and chemical materials to enable it to sustain the confrontation and remain in Kuwait in return for continued Iranian and Iraqi commitment to settle the Palestinian question at Jordan's expense.

The exchange of visits then continued between the two capitals. Tariq 'Aziz visited Tehran on 20 Safar 1411 corresponding to 9 September 1990 and the Iranian deputy foreign minister visited Baghdad on 27 Safar 1411 corresponding to 16 September 1990, to ensure continuation of cooperation between them and maintain secrecy of the agreement and achieve as much as possible at the right time, and also to pave the way for the official announcement of the restoration of full diplomatic relations between the two countries which was made on 25 Rabi' Awwal 1411 corresponding to 15 October 1990.

The resumption of relations between the two countries had one specific objective, namely to ensure direct contact and continuous better coordination between the two sides, and also to benefit from the Iraqi diplomatic channels in some Gulf states to serve Iranian objectives, and vice versa.

'UKAZ's private sources have confirmed that Iran has pledged to join in a war alongside Iraq in the event of any future confrontation in order to seize available opportunities and to stress to the West that it is the side which should be banked on in the future. Informed sources, however, do not believe that the restoration of ties between Iran and some European states meant using those states in any Iranian adventure to exploit the explosive situation at any time. The informed sources also said that the Iranian and Iraqi card of cooperation with Israel is now exposed and that it is now impossible to implement these aggressive plans.

The same informed sources have confirmed to 'UKAZ that Iraqi-Jordanian relations have been extremely tense in the past two weeks following Jordan's discovery that the Iraqi president had agreed with the Iranians on a settlement of the Palestinian question at the expense of Jordan. A parallel was drawn between this plan and Saddam Husayn's promise to enable the Jordanians to seize Mecca and al-Madinah—the same promise he also gave the Iranians.

It should be noted that Iran, Iraq, and Israel are pursuing their own separate aims without the others' knowledge.

USSR Economic Minister Katushev Arrives

LD2310191190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Konstantin Katushev, Soviet minister of foreign economic relations, arrived in Riyadh this evening on an official visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed on arrival by Saudi Commerce Minister Dr Sulayman al-sulayyim, Undersecretary Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-Zamil, and senior military officials.

Senegalese Commander Discusses Forces Role

AB2110182590 Paris AFP in English 1322 GMT 21 Oct 90

[By Chris Lefkow]

[Text] Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Oct 21 (AFP)—Senegal is ready to send more troops to Saudi Arabia if asked and its 500-men battalion, the smallest of the multi-national forces in the kingdom, should not be taken lightly, the commander of the Senegalese forces says. Colonel Mohamadou Keita told reporters that his troops, who arrived in Saudi Arabia in mid-September, should begin to take up defensive positions in the Saudi desert over the next few days.

"It's a battalion that has been formed for a specific task," Col Keita said Saturday, and includes paratroopers, commandos, sappers, engineers, artillery, and French-made light armoured vehicles equipped with 90mm cannons. Col. Keita's second-in-command, Lieutenant Colonel Babacar Gaye, said the force had been configured to give it maximum flexibility and the largest possible "autonomy of action."

Col. Keita said that his men, who are presently living in tents at a Saudi military base, are in Saudi Arabia on a "defensive mission." "We are here to participate in the defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," he said. Col. Keita said his troops were under the "operational control" of the Saudi military and would take on any mission they are ordered to perform, including participation in any offensive action. "We are at the disposition of the Saudi Government,: said Lt. Col. Gaye.

Col. Keita, who spent a year with U.N. peace-keeping forces in Lebanon, said his battalion may be small but it was a significant fighting force. "We may be small but we could play an important role," he said. The overall Senegalese commander added that "the Senegalese battalion is not going to act alone" if war breaks out. He also said "we are ready to reinforce the contingent if the Saudis ask for more."

Lt. Col. Gaye said his men were "not here for tourism." The two Senegalese officers said they had visited U.S. troops this week and held talks with U.S. military officers and had been taken seriously. Col. Keita said that he communicated with his Saudi counterparts in English and had received assistance from the French military in the deployment.

Col. Keita said "the fact that we are in the holy land was emotional" for his troops, all of whom are Moslems, and that he was "very proud" to be in Saudi Arabia as a "soldier, a Senegalese and an African." Senegal is the only black African country to have sent troops to Saudi Arabia following the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

United Arab Emirates

Mubarak, Zayid Address Egyptian Troops

NC2310190090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and United Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyah met at 1730 today with the Egyptian paratroppers deployed in the UAE.

President Mubarak addressed the Egyptian officers and soldiers and expressed his continuing pleasure at meeting his brothers and sons, the officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces who are the strong shield that defends not only the Egyptian homeland, but also the Arab homeland when the need arises.

President Mubarak thanked his brother Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan and said: First let me thank my big brother, His Highness Shaykh Zayid. He added: We, in fact, are not the guests of the UAE here but rather you are this country's sons working alongside the UAE forces in defense of justice and principles. I am very happy to meet you here on the land of fraternal UAE, just as I was happy to meet your brothers in the Kingdon of Saudi Arabia yesterday.

President Mubarak said: I saw them, as I am seeing you today, with high morale and ready for combat. All this is in defense of principles and justice. He added: Egypt is an Arab country which carries weight in the world, a state that defends Arab rights in cooperation with the Arab brothers everywhere. He went on to say: We only concern ourselves with the facts. One fact is that your coming here at the request of my brother Shaykh Zayid does not mean that we are warmongers. Armed forces are always a safety valve and do not seek war for the sake of war. Wars erupt and problems arise when a country is weak. He added: Strong countries and forces prevent wars and problems. You have come here to help your brothers in the UAE. We are talking about a matter of principle. Kuwait, Egypt, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia are all Arab countries. We are one shield and support each other. We must support each other in times of crises. He stressed that Egypt's support for this issue stems from its belief that it is a just cause.

President Mubarak continued: Neither I nor anyone else could have imagined that an Arab country would attack and seize another Arab country. I listened to some of our sons who have returned from Kuwait. One of them told me—I am relating this story and this could be the thinking of a minority of the Iraqi forces—that one of the Iraqi soldiers at a roadblock told him: Why are you rushing to condemn us? Why don't you let us seize Kuwait and then you can seize Libya? Denouncing such statements, President Mubarak said: Is this the principle? Is it permissible for the strong to seize the weak? Libya is a sisterly and friendly country.

President Mubarak said: We are allies and therefore we must support Kuwait. The entire world rose to defend and support it. So why are we Arabs are attacking each other?

He added: The foreign forces have come at the request of the countries concerned so that the aggression and invasion will not be repeated. We hope that the problem will be resolved, that Iraq will withdraw, that legitimacy will be restored without bloodshed, and that every country will return to its borders; otherwise we will be living in an unsafe world and every strong country will seize a weaker one and wipe it off the map as we enter the 21st Century.

President Mubarak said: The major powers have stopped this practice. It is a serious thing for anyone to be so arrogant, as this would be the ultimate calamity. He warned against the demand for changing a regime for the sake of reaching a solution. He said: This is interference in internal affairs. Only a people has the right to decide on such a change and no one has the right to dictate to them. Each people has the right to choose its government and regime.

The president went on to say: I convey to you the greetings of your kinfolk in Egypt. Their hearts are with you and with your brothers in Saudi Arabia. All Egyptians support their sons in the Armed Forces who are outside the borders and wish you well. They are confident of your ability to perform your duty as you should. He added: We do not interfere in the affairs of others. You are under the orders of the UAE president and are working alongside your brothers in the Armed Forces here in the defense of justice and principles.

President Mubarak then spoke about the economic situation in Egypt. He said: It is proceeding along the right course. The United States will decide tonight on the military debt problem, and this will relieve us of an annual burden of $1.2 billion. He added: Anyway, the economic situation is improving gradually—this is not a new problem. He said: We are following the right course, the course of development. Production must be increased and efforts must be redoubled, as the citizens well understand.

President Mubarak declared that Egypt is not biased in favor of this or that party, but is on the side of justice and principles and is against aggression. He then said: I wish you success and will answer any questions you may have.

Staff Brig. Gen. Zaki 'Abd-al-Ghani Sulayman, commander of the forces, asked President Mubarak on behalf of his officers and soldiers about the odds of reaching a solution either through peaceful means or through war. President Mubarak said: The chances of war and peace are equal; there is a fifty-fifty chance of each. He added: No one wants war. We want a withdrawal and the return of full legitimacy. The president then said: We never wanted to see the Iraqi people put in such a difficult position. I hope with all my heart that the situation will not reach the point where the Armed Forces are used.

President Mubarak here said: I reiterate my appeal to President Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait, to let us reach a solution without bloodshed. He should understand that the entire world is against his position. East and West have united for the first time in history, and this is an important signal to the rulers in Iraq to review their assessment of the situation and to make the unanimous decision that would spare us war and bloodshed. He noted that obstinacy in such matters is something grave and is toying with the lives of Iraqi and Arab citizens. He stressed that the entire world is determined that Iraq should withdraw, that legimacy must be restored, and that there is no going back on this position.

President Mubarak then wished his soldiers success.

UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan also addressed the troops and officers. Greeting the Egyptian expeditionary force and the Egyptian Armed Forces, he said: It is a very happy occasion for me to find you here among us and to meet with this number of the Egyptian people's officers and soldiers. You came from Egypt in order to uphold right and to confront evil. You are welcome here in your country and among your brothers and kin.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid stated: As you know, the UAE does not like war and has no ambitious designs on anyone. The UAE extends assistance and is seeking peace and reconciliation, and it welcomes all efforts to bring brothers closer together and to resolve their problems.

Shaykh Zayid added that the UAE is a young country. He said: Providence has helped enable this honest country to extend (?good assistance) to the brothers. God has inspired us with right and directed us toward sound action. What was once a group of emirates became, by our collective will, a united country. This is a source of strength for us all. We praise and thank God who assisted us to be pious and faithful and to maintain good relations with both brothers and foreigners. It is strange that some people believe only in the theory of aggression. They attack and annex other countries unjustly and through aggression. This is the last way we expect one brother to treat another. We hope that God will guide these people back to the right path and that Kuwait will emerge from its ordeal, which drove its people, including old men, women, and children, out of their homes.

He added that the UAE alone welcomed 40,000 Kuwaiti citizens and the brothers here opened their homes to them. He explained that this is a repayment of a debt to Kuwait, which had helped the UAE by building hospitals and schools here. He said: They helped our men find work in Kuwait. Shaykh Zayid added: Our values prompt us to acknowledge this assistance and in turn to extend assistance to our brothers whenever we can.

His highness added that God Almighty will repulse the unjust and enable the wronged to triumph. Kuwait will be restored to its amir and its people, either by peaceful means or by war. It will again be a country that (?helps) its brothers and benefits from them.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid concluded his speech by saying: I thank you and my brother Husni Mubarak whose good qualities, with which I have long been familiar, have now become even more pronounced. The meeting ended with the soldiers wishing long life to the two leaders and the two fraternal countries and by chanting the Egyptian national anthem.

Staff Brigadier General Zaki 'Abd-al-Ghani Sulayman, commander of the Egyptian force, had delivered a speech at the beginning of the meeting in which he welcomed the distinguished Arab leaders Mubarak and Zayid.

Mubarak Leaves Following Talks

JN2410104890 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpts] A round of talks was held this morning between His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the fraternal Republic of Egypt. [passage omitted]

Later, a bilateral meeting between the two presidents was held in the presence of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the Armed forces. At the same time, the two countries's delegations also held an expanded meeting. His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left the country this afternoon after a brotherly visit to the UAE. [passage omitted]

Indian Minister of External Affairs Arrives

On Two-Day Visit

JN2010170490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Oct (WAKH)—Indian Minister of External Affairs Inder Kumar Gujral arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. He was welcomed at the airport by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; several Foreign Ministry officials; and Ranjit Sini [name as received], Indian Ambassador to the UAE.

Delivers Message to Shaykh Zayid

JN2010170790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Oct (WAKH)—India reiterated its support today for the international resolutions calling for an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait and for the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government represented by Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

This came in a message United Arab Emirates [UAE] President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received from Indian President Ramaswamy Iyer Venkataraman. The message dealt with the current regional situation in light of the crisis caused by the continued Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait. Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral conveyed the message when His Highness Shaykh Zayid received him today.

Economic Cooperation Talks Held

BK2110102390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] India and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have agreed to widen their economic cooperation. This was disclosed by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, at Abu Dhabi after high-level talks with the president of the UAE, Shaykh Zayid, and with the foreign minister, Mr. Rashid. Mr. Gujral said that India will be helping the UAE in various joint ventures. The Indian delegation sources said that the joint Indo-UAE commission will meet in New Delhi in the later half of next month for expediting the process. The projects that have been identified for detailed consideration by the joint commission include the Gandhar petrochemical project in Gujarat and the Madhya Pradesh petrochemical project in Vijaypur. The external affairs minister reiterated President Venkataraman's invitation to President Shaykh Zayid. The Shaykh has agreed to visit India at a convenient date.

Gujral Asks Iraq To Withdraw

BK2210045490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] India favors the stationing of UN forces in the Gulf. Addressing a news conference in Dubayy last night, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said foreign troops should not be stationed permanently in the region. He said the only solution to the Gulf crisis is that Iraqi troops must be withdrawn from Kuwait unconditionally and sovereignty and independence of Kuwait must be restored. Mr. Gujral said that war will be disastrous, not only for this region but for the whole world.

Our Gulf correspondent, Avinash Goel, reports that the external affairs minister categorically stated that New Delhi supports every resolution of the UN Security Council to solve the Gulf crisis. Mr. Gujral said India recognizes the Kuwait government in exile and continues to maintain contacts on political and diplomatic level with that government.

Chief of Staff Meets With U.S. Navy Commander

JN2010171390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Oct (WAKH)—Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces, met here this morning with Vice Admiral Henry Mauz, commander of the U.S. Navy Central Command and the U.S. 7th Fleet, who is on a visit to the Emirates. They reviewed, during the meeting, topics related to the nature of joint military cooperation and current developments in the region.

President Zayid Receives French Assembly Members

JN2010180790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates president, today received Rene Roche, former president of the European Parliament and French National Assembly member, and Jean Marie Caro, French National Assembly member. The meeting dealt with the current situation in the region in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the French position on this crisis.

Yemen

State Proposes 'Seven-Point Plan' for Gulf Peace

LD2310150290 Rabat MAP in English 1345 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Sanaa, Oct 23, (MAP)—Yemen has worked out a peace plan to settle the Gulf crisis, providing for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and of the foreign forces deployed in the region as well as for the respect of the self-determination right of the Kuwaiti people, a Yemeni news paper has reported.

The paper, quoting official sources, said that the Yemeni seven point plan also advocates the lifting of the UN trade and economic embargo against Iraq, opening negotiations for a comprehensive settlement to all the pending issues in the Middle East.

The plan also provides for conducting an inquiry on the genuine causes behind the Iraqi intervention in Kuwait and elaborating a new economic order to erase the gap between rich and poor countries in the region. Yemen has lately set forth several moves aimed at seeking a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis in an Arab framework.

14 American 'Guests' Depart Baghdad 22 Oct

JN2310164090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1618 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—In implementation of President Saddam Husayn's order that a number of American nationals, guests of the people of Iraq, be given the choice to leave for their countries or to stay in Iraq, 14 American nationals who were guests of Iraq left Baghdad today.

In statements to INA, the departing American guests expressed their thanks for the hospitality and comprehensive care they had been granted by the government and people of Iraq during their stay.

They described President Saddam Husayn's initiative of giving them the free choice to leave or to stay in Iraq as a message of peace to the world and one that reflects Iraq's good intentions on the establishment of peace and security in the region and the entire world.

Ramadan Meets U.S. Group, Rejects U.S. Policy

JN2410112690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2250 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan today received a delegation from the U.S. People's Reconciliation Association, led by Douglas Hartread [name and title as received].

During the meeting, Ramadan stressed that peace requires brave minds and live consciences that appreciate the humanitarian significance of peace so that peoples will be able to coexist in peace, amity, and stability, away from domestic interference, hegemony, and plundering their wealth. He emphasized that Iraq, which believes in peace, has given tangible proof and adopted several measures to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of President Saddam Husayn's initiative, which is based on the legal and just international legitimacy to resolve all the region's problems.

The first deputy prime minister stated that peace cannot be achieved through hegemony, armed threats, or by ignoring the will of the people, their freedoms, and their rights. He said the Iraqis reject the U.S. policy and will never relinquish their dignity and rights of sovereignty, which they will defend with their strong capabilities.

The head of the U.S. peace delegation said that the resolutions that were adopted against Iraq, the blockade against it, and denying the Iraqi people food and medicine are illegal and inhuman. He said that the UN Security Council has never adopted such resolutions in its history, and that this shows clear hostility toward Iraq. He stressed that the U.S. public opinion is against war, that it will continue its humanitarian message for the sake of peace in which all peoples believe, and that military escalation conflicts with the efforts being exerted to achieve peace.

U.S. Delegation Head Extols Iraqi Initiatives

JN2310211890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—Dr. Salim Mansur, head of the Iraqi-U.S. Institute team, praised the Iraqi peace initiatives to resolve all Middle East issues.

In a news conference today in the presence of the delegation members, correspondents of world television networks, news agencies, and Arab and foreign press, in addition to the INA correspondent, Mansur said that Iraq's good and sincere peace initiatives are considered a way of sparing the region and the world the grave consequences and disasters that would result if an armed confrontation were to break out in this vital region of the world.

The Arab solution, he added, guarantees to embrace the pillars of peace and avert the specter of a world economic crisis, whose signs have began to appear and threaten grave consequences to humanity.

He said that the team noted the serious endeavors to resolve the current crisis in the Arabian Gulf during its meeting with President Saddam Husayn and several other Iraqi officials; foremost being the president's 12 August initiative that announces to the world Iraq's full and sincere readiness to implement the peaceful solution.

He pointed out that the team regards this initiative as a strong support and incentive for all parties to proceed in this direction, and which guarantees the interests of the entire world and strengthens human bonds and sound international relations.

Team Issues Statement

JN2310150190 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 23, INA—Concluding a ten-day visit to Iraq, the American Iraqi Foundation delegation headed by Dr Salim Mansur issued a press release, demonstrating outcome of the visit.

Dr Mansur said that the American Iraqi Foundation, a national public interest organization was established in Washington on the 14th July 1990 to promote and develop strong cultural, economic and political ties between the American and Iraqi peoples and institutions.

The primary purpose of our visit to Iraq is for promoting a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to the gulf crisis. The Iraqi leadership clearly does not wish for, nor believes in a military solution, which can quickly and easily engulf the region and beyond, in a lengthy and bloody holocaust.

The delegation met President Saddam Husayn, and held meetings with speaker of the National Assembly and several Iraqi ministers.

The press release added that President Saddam Husayn met the delegation on October 21 1990. President Husayn indicated that the government of Iraq tried in vain to resolve diplomatically the various outstanding issues.

President Husayn expressed repeatedly, the quest by Iraq for an equitable, peaceful and diplomatic resolution of this crisis.

The president reiterated the initiative, detailed in the 12 August 1990 proposal and the need for an Arab solution under the aegis of the Arab League.

During an extensive exchange of views between President Husayn and delegation members, the president asserted commitment to a non- military solution, unless Iraq is attacked.

The foundations delegation was very impressed by President Husayn's quest for a peaceful solution, and his sincerity. We were also impressed by the professional caliber and dedication to a peaceful resolution by every member of the government and its people.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Britain's Heath 23 Oct

JN2310110190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1043 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz received Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath today.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary and the head of its First Political Department attended the meeting.

Heath Remarks on Conditions

JN2310145690 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 23, INA—Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath on Monday [22 October] said he saw that Britons in Iraq are leading a normal life.

"I have visited British people in Mansur Melia Hotel and they are living in normal conditions for a hotel," Mr Heath told the BAGHDAD OBSERVER.

Heath, Prime Minister from 1970 to 1974, said he would not take any notice of criticism by some fanatic members of the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher over his visit to Iraq. "I have always been criticised by members of the British Government. I do not take any notice," Heath said.

Mr Heath said his visit to Iraq is a humanitarian one "to discuss with President Saddam Husayn the return home of some Britons."

Following three hours of talks with President Husayn, Heath told a press conference on Sunday that the president has assured him that some men would be returning to Britain as a result of his visit.

He added that he and Iraqi officials have been preparing a list of names of different groups of Britons, "When that process would be completed they would fly back with me on Tuesday afternoon."

The former British premier said he brought with him a list of "sick or elderly Britons" that he obtained from their relatives in Britain.

He added that his visit also comes to improve relations between Iraq and Britain.

Heath Thanks Saddam, Departs

JN2410100290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2255 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath left Baghdad tonight at the end of a four-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Heath expressed thanks and apreciation for President Saddam Husayn's initiative allowing some elderly and sick British nationals, who are being hosted by Iraq as its guests, to leave Iraq. Heath affirmed the need to seek a peaceful solution to the Arabian Gulf incidents without resorting to the use of military force.

British 'Guests' Thank Government for Care

JN2410091790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—In implementation of President Saddam Husayn's orders to allow several British nationals who are being hosted by Iraq as guests to leave for their country, or to stay in Iraq if they so wish, 32 [as received] British elderly and sick nationals left Baghdad tonight.

In statements to INA, the British guests thanked the Iraqi people and Government for the hospitality they were accorded and the comprehensive care they were given during their stay.

They described President Saddam Husayn's initiative allowing them to choose between leaving the country, or staying in Iraq as being a message of peace to the world that highlights Iraq's intentions to establish peace and security in the Arab region and the world at large.

Tariq 'Aziz Criticizes U.S., UK Stance

JN2310143190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Iraq responded, and will respond, with an open mind and sincere intentions to the efforts by the Soviet Union and France in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's historic initiative of 12 August 1990.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY here today, the foreign minister said that Iraq accepts dialogue with any international or Arab party that harbors no prior hostility.

The following is the text of the Iraqi foreign minister's statement:

Despite the clamorous campaign of terrorism and falsification by the United States and Britain in particular against Iraq in view of the current situation in the Gulf region, and despite the fabricated emphasis on this situation, recent events in occupied Palestine—especially the crime committed by the Zionist regime in Jerusalem on 8 October 1990 and the events in Lebanon, including the continuing violation of sovereignty, the massacres, and the destruction there—have confirmed the validity of the Iraqi position, which is to address all issues of the region and to seek just and balanced solutions to them. This is what President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August 1990 called for.

The U.S. and British Governments arrogantly rejected that responsible and wise initiative because both governments have for decades shared most of the responsibility for the insoluble crises in the region and because, through their hostile military and political campaign against Iraq, they are seeking to control the oil fields for their own colonialist interests and to revive the old colonialist era, which was disrupted by the Arab liberation movement.

These two governments in particular have tried to reject any objective—or relatively objective—attempt to deal with the other crises of the region, especially Palestine and Lebanon.

However, events on the ground have dealt a strong blow to the arrogant position of both the Washington and London Governments. Events in Palestine and Lebanon have shown that the region is suffering from the oldest crises, and those more dangerous to peace and security than the situation in the Gulf, which could have been resolved from the beginning within an Arab framework—had it not been for foreign intervention and the plot hatched by the Egyptian ruler through the farce of the Cairo meeting.

The terrible massacres being committed in Lebanon, the disgraceful silence over the occupation of that wounded Arab country by the forces of another country, the continued Zionist crimes against the Palestinian Arab people, and the Zionist entity's continued plans to annex Arab territories and Judaize the entire city of Jerusalem are flagrant evidence of the unjust policy of the Washington and London Governments—which is to keep the region hostage to aggression, expansion, tension, and confusion so that they can dominate the region and its resources, including the oil wells, and control the future and the impact of this important resource on others in political and economic terms.

The foreign minister appealed to those countries of the world that do not have imperialist aims in the region and that want to reinforce international cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual respect, to oppose strongly the Washington and London Governments' unjust policy.

The foreign minister added that the meeting to be held in Paris between Soviet President Gorbachev and French President Mitterrand may constitute an opportunity for these two countries to show more comprehensive interest in the region's issues to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

The foreign minister also said that Iraq has responded and will respond with open mind and sincere intentions to the efforts by the USSR and France in accordance with the historic initiative 12 August 1990 of President Saddam Husayn, and that Iraq will also accept dialogue with any international and Arab side that harbors no hostile intentions to Iraq.

Bulgarian Delegation Holds Official Talks

JN2310120490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and Bulgaria began this evening. The Iraqi side to the talks was headed by Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and vice president, while the Bulgarian side was headed by Vice President Atanas Semerdzhiev.

Mr. Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf underlined the concern of Iraq, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, for peace and security in the region as demonstrated by his excellency's peace initiatives to provide the appropriate climate to settle all problems in the region. He said the unjust and illegitimate resolutions issued by the UN Security Council, under pressure from the U.S. Administration, run contrary to the UN Charter, which does not stipulate that food, milk, and medicines should be prevented from reaching people. He stressed that by using a selective approach in implementing the resolutions, the United States has lost its credibility in dealing with the world.

The RCC member and vice president added that while calling for peace, the people of Iraq stand united behind President Saddam Husayn's leadership to confront any aggression and are determined to achieve victory and defend their national and pan-Arab rights regardless of all sacrifices. He pointed out that the visit by a Bulgarian delegation of this level, and at a time when the region is witnessing rapid and numerous developments, reflects the two friendly countries' concern to continue and improve the march of cooperation for the benefit of their peoples.

On his part, Atanas Semerdzhiev praised President Saddam Husayn and described him as a leader who dots the i's. He also praised Iraq's endeavor for peace which it considers a principled strategy in its foreign policy. He also hailed President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative.

Atanas Semerdzhiev said that Bulgaria supports all peace efforts to settle the problems in the region in order to spare it and the world the specter of a destructive war. He emphasized his country's desire to continue to develop relations with Iraq in all fields, noting that his country is ready to complete all the construction projects which the Bulgarian companies and institutions are executing in Iraq in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

The talks dealt with the situation in the Arab and international arenas and the developments in the Arab region and Eastern Europe. Emphasis was placed on the need to continue coordination and cooperation between the two countries in a manner that corresponds to the current and future phases.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Tahir Muhammad Hassun, minister of housing and reconstruction; 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of agriculture and irrigation; officials from the Foreign and Trade Ministries; and the Iraqi ambassador to Sofia. On the Bulgarian side, the talks were attended by Ivan Krustuv, Bulgarian minister of construction, architecture, and urban development; Krustyu Krustuv [name as received], adviser to the Bulgarian prime minister; the Bulgarian ambassador to Baghdad; and a number of officials.

Delegation Meets With Saddam

JN2310202890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Today President Saddam Husayn received Atanas Semerdzhiev, vice president of the People's Republic of Bulgaria's State Council. Semerdzhiev handed President leader Saddam Husayn a written message from Zhelyu Zhelev, chairman of the Bulgarian State Council. The message deals with relations between the two friendly countries and developments in the regional situation.

During the meeting, Semerdzhiev praised the relations of friendship between Iraq and Bulgaria, describing these relations as important and distinguished. He added that these relations cannot be relinquished, that every effort must be made to maintain these longstanding relations. Semerdzhiev warned of the gravity of a war in the region. He said: We are sure that any war in this region will be dangerous and will gravely harm mankind for a long time to come. He added: Therefore, we support a peaceful solution to this issue, and we are sure that this is the position of Iraq as well. Semerdzhiev expressed his country's support for an Arab solution, and said: We support such a solution by the Arab states, so that the Arabs resolve their problems by themselves.

The Bulgarian vice president noted that the Middle East is suffering from many troubles and problems, that the main issue is the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's rights. He said: We support a just solution to the Palestine question and to all problems of this region.

Leader President Saddam Husayn expressed appreciation for the relations of friendship between the two countries. He reaffirmed the importance of them to Iraq, and its readiness to promote them. The leader president reiterated Iraq's principled and constant stance on the region's problems. His excellency said: We believe that the war whose drums are being beaten will not resolve the region's problems, that what will resolve them is a dialogue and positions that are not based on double standards so as to reach a peaceful solution to all problems in the region.

President leader Saddam Husayn added: The Arabs should either be left to solve their problems by themselves—as they are the most capable of doing—or a comprehensive solution should be reached for all the problems of the region, to be headed by the question of Palestine.

During the meeting, Semerdzhiev appealed to President leader Saddam Husayn to allow Bulgarian nationals to leave Iraq. He expressed his desire that this appeal be responded to and that an appropriate decision in this regard be taken.

In line with President Saddam Husayn's policy in terms of rejecting intransigence and rigidity and adopting a dialogue supported by good intentions as the means to finding a close and joint understanding that helps find a solution to any problem, his excellency consented to Semerdzhiev's appeal. He said: We will propose to the National Assembly that it lift the travel ban on Bulgarian nationals and allow them to leave Iraq or to remain, as they wish, and to allow the Bulgarian nationals who are working in accordance with mutual contractual obligations to leave the country.

Semerdzhiev expressed thanks and profound appreciation for leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative.

The meeting was attended by Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf; Khristo Khristov [name as heard], adviser to the chairman of the Council of Ministers; and the two countries' ambassadors in Baghdad and Sofia.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets With Japanese Official

JN2310160490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz received Wasuke Miyake, president of the Middle East Survey Association, today.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the developments in the Arab region in general and in the Arabian Gulf region in particular in light of the foreign presence in the Arabian Peninsula, and the threats posed by this presence to world peace and security.

The head of First Political Department at the Foreign Ministry attended the meeting.

'Aziz Speaks to Assembly, French Release Viewed

JN2310185990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1848 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—The National Assembly has approved by majority vote the contents of President Saddam Husayn's message to the speaker and members of the National Assembly yesterday, namely to give the French guests the freedom either to travel to their homeland or to stay in Iraq. This came in the extraordinary session held by the National Assembly this evening under the chairmanship of National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih in the presence of Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minster and foreign minister.

At the beginning of the session, the head of the Arab and International Relations Committee read the draft law presented by the committees of Arab and International Relations and Legal and Administrative Affairs to the National Assembly speaker to be discussed by the members of the Assembly.

The two committees pointed out in their report that the most important principles that could be deduced from President Saddam Husayn's initiative are: First to honor the friendly French people's stand and rejection of Bush's aggressive methods; second, to honor French President Francois Mitterrand's initiative linking all issues in the region in a comprehensive manner and solving them through peaceful means; and third, to affirm Iraq's concern over continuing its friendship with France.

These principles represent the deep humanitarian views of the great Iraqi people with links to their Arab nation, their behavior toward world nations on the justice, and their readiness to forgive when possible and do good deeds for those who do good deeds. In addition, the initiative giving French nationals the freedom to leave for their homeland or to stay in Iraq confirms the belief of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in humanitarian principles and values. Therefore, the initiative came as positive proof of the humanity of the Ba'th Party and as a practical initiative to enlighten others about their humanitarian duties.

It also reaffirms the belief of Iraq—the leadership and the people—in peace based on justice and fairness, and that the guests of the Iraqi people are not held against their will, but are a vehicle for peace and a serious contribution toward averting the specter of war from the region and sparing the world the resulting destruction.

After that, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, answered questions posed by the members of the National Assembly. He said:

I am pleased to attend this extraordinary session with you, which has been called to discuss the message leader President Saddam Husayn addressed to the National Assembly regarding the position on the French citizens and to study the issue of either letting them leave or stay. You have all been briefed on the president leader's message and its contents, such as the humanitarian considerations and the evaluation of the French position.

Before I delve into answering questions and addressing the interests of the ladies and gentlemen of the National Assembly, I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that the view of the leadership in Iraq on relations with other peoples and countries is not restricted to circumstances that exist at a certain point in time; this view is crystallized and defined in accordance with historical facts and courses with relationship to past events, the present situation, and the future, because Iraq does not define its relations with countries and peoples on the basis of transient or short-term gains, but defines them within the framework of Iraq and the Arab nation.

The Arab nation is a great nation with a message and a cause linked to the general human struggle for freedom, independence, progress and the triumph of human values, especially justice. When we determine our stance toward peoples and governments, therefore, we take into consideration the positions they adopted on all those issues in the past and the present, as well as the positions we imagine they will take in the future.

Before replying to the enquiries and points raised by the members of the Assembly concerning the French position, I must, with your permission Mr. Speaker, briefly explain our assessment of France's old position toward our main causes, whether concerning Iraq or the Palestine question, before moving to the current situation, which is of utmost concern. After France turned the colonialist page that characterized its policy in the fifties and its hostile position toward the Arab nation during the Algerian revolution and the tripartite aggression against Egypt, we started to notice a change in French policy. This was in the sixties. There was an independence from the United States, and an inclination to promote cooperation with Third World countries on bases. These were not fully free of colonialist interests, but were more developed, and could fit as foundations for some kind of new world relations that the peoples of Third World, including the Arab nation and Iraq, have long called for. After the eruption of the glorious 17-30 July revolution in Iraq, and the assumption by the leader president of his responsibilities in this country, we began to wage political and economic battles in accordance with the goals of the people, the party, and the revolution, and we began to deal tangibly and in detail with the positions of the countries of the world.

We remember our first major battle with the old colonial alliance of the world; that is, the battle over the nationalization of oil in 1972. As you know, the monopolistic companies that were controling our main wealth belonged to the major old colonialist powers; namely, the United States, Britain, France, and the Netherlands. Because of the tangible development in the French position at that time, the Iraqi leadership, upon the directives of leader Saddam Husayn, adopted a special position toward France in appreciation and encouragement of the French stance on the question of oil nationalization.

When President Saddam Husayn was vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, he went on his first visit to France under the late President Pompidou. Talks and negotiations were held between the Iraqi and French sides, with the objective of entrenching the distinguished French stand and setting up the kind of relationship between Iraq and France that serves the mutual legitimate interests of the two countries. I remember the events very clearly, since I accompanied the president on that tour in my capacity as chief editor of the newspaper, AL-THAWRAH. The president leader outlined in his talks with Pompidou, the then Prime Minister Chaban-Delmas, and with the reporters he met with, Iraq's vision of future relations with France and the relationship of this vision to future relations between the Arab nation and France—and Europe. He also stressed the Palestine question as the central cause for these relations, apart from free economic cooperation in the future. I can safely say that President Saddam Husayn's historic visit in 1972 turned a new page in Iraqi-Arab relations on the one side, and with France on the other—relations that were characterized in the seventies by growth, development, mutual respect, and understanding. This caused France to take very positive positions on the U.S. bias toward the Zionist entity. Its positions were better than those of other European countries. We could say that France's position has reflected positively on those of other European countries.

When the Iranian aggression on Iraq started, Mr. Speaker—and we remember that period very well, in addition to the difficult circumstances that evolved after the aggression and the changing positions of some countries—we must say, out of a sense of fairness and just and sound evaluation of the events, that the French Government during former President Giscard d'Estaing, and after that, during Francois Mitterrand's time in 1981, took an understanding position regarding the circumstances that existed at that time, and supported the Iraqi defense efforts against the Iranian aggression, directly after the aggression. France never stopped its defense dealings with Iraq under President Giscard d'Estaing, and took political and diplomatic stands calling for peace and for strengthening the chances for a just peace in the region.

Mitterrand and the Socialist Party came to power in 1981, we held contacts with the new French Government. The President leader entrusted me with this task. I left for Paris and met with President Francois Mitterrand and with the French officials, many of whom are still in office. The French side voiced understanding for the situation in the region and for the defensive nature of the struggle that Iraq had been waging. They also showed understanding as to the perils that the aggressive Iranian inclination used to pose to the region. The French Government's decision at the time had been to continue cooperation in the defense, economic, political, and diplomatic fields, as well as in the other fields. I can say that relations between Iraq and France during the Iranian aggression against Iraq from 1980 until 1988 were among the best.

President leader Saddam Husayn has on many occasions voiced his appreciation for France's stands and for French President Francois Mitterrand's stands. He constantly recalls the historic statement made by the French president during his visit to the Gulf region in 1982 warning against the Iranian aggression against Iraq and against the perils that could result from this aggression. I cannot but mention here a reality we have sensed during our direct dealings to the effect that the attitude of some quarters in the French Government—for the sake of accuracy, I do not say the attitude of the French Government but some quarters within it—started to change and become negative following the end of the war in August 1988. We began to sense statements and stands that were not in line with previous stands and which roiled or marred these relations. The somewhat complicated relations during that period between Iraq and France in all fields, whether the economic and political fields or the field of defense, which remained an important field of cooperation between the two countries.

During that period, we exerted much effort to exchange viewpoints with French officials. We must not forget that during that stage France experienced some changes when the Socialist Party lost the majority in the National Assembly. Mr. Jacques Chirac assumed the post of prime minister and an unprecedented new style of government was practiced in France. I cannot say that this new style had complicated relations between us because relations during Mr. Chirac's era were also good, but this created more difficulties in the dealings between the two countries.

Early this year, we exerted great efforts to restore understanding and clarity to Iraqi-French relations and eliminate the causes for misunderstanding and the problems obstructing the good relations between the two countries. We sensed that there were some quarters within the French Government encouraging this positive trend in relations while other quarters within the government were obstructing it. I do not want to dot the i's here and mention the names of this or that official. To be fair, I must say French President Francois Mitterrand has always been in favor of developing relations between Iraq and France. He encouraged the efforts to remove the problems and clouds that appeared in Iraqi-French relations.

During the first months of this year, we noticed that those circles I have referred to, which contributed to obstructing relations between Iraq and France, used political and media language full of negative words against Iraq. I also remember the statements issued after the execution of the spy Bazoft. The statements were fabricated and designed to destroy and strain relations with Iraq. The well-known 2 August events then took place. At the beginning of these events, I was unable to distinguish the French Government's position from that of other Western countries. I saw no signs that the French Government took a position that was different from the other Western countries.

Of course, there is an objective difference between France and the United States that should be taken into consideration in all cases. The United States is a first-class imperialist state. This is not praise. It is an imperialist state in the full sense of the word. The present regime in Britain, Margaret Thatcher's government, also has many imperialist and old colonialist characteristics. But the French Government cannot be classified in that category because of its position on the Gulf and other issues. French politics in general has positive and constructive positions toward the Palestine question, Third World issues, and the problems from which the Third World is suffering. From this angle, we can clearly distinguish between the French position on the one hand, and the U.S. and British position on the other. However, France participated in the fierce campaign against Iraq after the 2 August events. Other developments also increased the misunderstanding between the two sides.

I remember, Mr. Speaker, the incident involving the house of the former French ambassador in the Governorate of Kuwait. We learned that the French had issued a statement in Paris saying that an aggression had been committed against the house of the former French ambassador in the Governorate of Kuwait. After holding contacts, we knew, and I must admit, that the information provided to us by officials was inaccurate. They did not do this on purpose but the information they received was untrue and inaccurate. At that time, we announced the Foreign Ministry's position. We later discovered that the announcement was also inaccurate, and on the instructions of the leader president, I sent an investigating team there headed by a Foreign Ministry under secretary. The team, in cooperation with the brother officials in the Governorate of Kuwait, investigated the situation. We learned that a number of soldiers had entered the house of the French ambassador by mistake. They did not know it was the ambassador's house, but when they discovered their error and learned that we in Baghdad were persistently following the issue, they were afraid of telling the truth and gave us inaccurate information.

However, when we learned the truth, we officially announced it. We also gave our apology for what had happened, because the Iraqi Government had no intention of harming the French diplomats there. However, what drew our attention was that the French president adopted a very hard stand on this incident before giving us enough time for clarification and explanation, and decided to dispatch ground forces to the Arabian Peninsula at a time when France had only dispatched naval forces and helicopters. In any case, we had hoped that the French stand would not have escalated negatively, because we believed that the basic characteristics of France as a state and as a deep-rooted people must reflect on the current situation, after the first state of hysteria that the United States imposed on the whole world ended. After days and weeks of U.S. hysteria, we have actually begun to see positive changes in the French stand both on the popular and government levels.

On the popular level, you are aware of the statements that have been made by several French personalities, the statements that have been issued by some French political parties, and the many articles that have been published by the French press on the demonstrations, meetings, and seminars that have been held and staged in France, and in which French citizens have participated along with the Arabs residing in France. The conclusion is that France was against the U.S. course concerning the region's events, which is an aggressive imperialist course in its nature and results. The personalities, parties, and citizens who participated in these activities raised serious questions on the usefulness of contributing to the military campaign against Iraq, and on the unlimited subservience to the aggressive U.S. stand. They warned against the bad consequences of U.S. hostility—consequences that would affect the region, France, Europe, and the whole world.

We have followed these changes in stands in the French arena with great interest. On 24 September, French President Francois Mitterrand delivered a speech before the United Nations, which was called President Mitterrand's initiative. Many of you ladies and gentlemen have raised questions about this speech, whether it was a new stand, whether this speech or initiative constituted a comprehensive plan to resolve all the Middle East problems, and whether we support everything that was included in this speech. I can say that President Mitterrand's speech was a new phenomenon in the Western political position. This was the first time that the president of a big European state, which is a UN Security Council permanent member, dealt with the region's question in a different way and with a different approach.

In his comment on President Mitterrand's speech, the president leader raised a very important point that is of utmost concern to the president and also to Iraq. This point deals with intentions, which the president had also mentioned in his address on the Prophet's anniversary. The president leader said: We are interested in intentions. We find that President Mitterrand's speech contains intentions that are different from the intentions prevailing in Western policy at the moment. When intentions are sound, then matters can be seen in a different light. This is so even if the stands are not identicial with our stands, or if there are differences of opinions between us and those who have sound intentions. When sound intentions prevail, we can then seek to reach understanding through dialogue, and reach accord on the basis of dialogue and the interests and objectives on which we agree.

Thus, we can say that President Mitterrand's speech represents a new method of tackling the situation consisting of a comprehensive approach toward the region's causes. However, we did not consider it as being adequate for the attainment of a comprehensive solution to all the problems of the region. We still hope that the French stand will be further developed. How do we assess the situation now? We can say that France is no longer an advocate of aggression in the region. We can also say that France favors a peaceful settlement of the problems from which the Middle East region suffers.

We can say that France adopts a developed position toward the Palestinian cause, which is a crucial issue for the Arab nation and whose settlement is the key to the settlement of all the other causes in the region. We can say that France is exerting overt as well as covert efforts to find a peaceful settlement of these situations, including the situation in the Gulf. Yes, the French forces are still there, but we have heard reassurances that these forces will not be used in a military operation against Iraq. The French popular arena has witnessed a tangible development. There is, as we have said, a position that becomes more clear and more forceful for consolidation of a peaceful course and toward more understanding of the problems of the region.

However, we cannot say that this arena has become one that fully supports our stands or completely understands all our stands as we view them here in Iraq or in the Arab homeland. We do see that there is a positive move, however. We in Iraq and on the directives of the president leader do not ask the countries in the world and the peoples of this world to have identical viewpoints on everything. We only ask them to adopt a sound stand in terms of intentions and readiness to comprehend our national causes in Iraq and our pan-Arab causes on the Arab level. This is more than sufficient for building humane and civilized relationships between Iraq and the Arab nation on one side and other peoples and countries on the other.

To be fair, we must say that the current situation in France on both the popular and official levels is moving in this direction. I am not overestimating this positive situation, but I can emphasize that there are positive signs.

Mr. Speaker, I will try to answer some detailed questions that were raised by the ladies and gentlemen, the members of the National Assembly. Please allow me to sum up our view at the Foreign Ministry and our recommendation to the ladies and gentlemen, the members of the National Assembly, on this issue.

Sisters and brothers, why did you prevent a number of foreigners from leaving? I do not think that we, as Iraqis, harbor enmity toward these people as individuals, peoples, and states. There is the danger of U.S. aggression against our people and country. You concluded that these people's stay in our country for a while will reduce the possibility of aggression against Iraq.

If we notice that one of these countries whose citizens have been prevented from leaving takes a position that reasonably hints that it will not participate in a military aggression against us and that it is working to bring about a peaceful settlement of the situation in the region, including the Palestine question, we will respond, as expressed by the leader president's message, because we are a peace-loving nation that has a genuine cultural heritage, that appreciates other nations that take positive positions, and that wants to build relations with other nations based on mutual respect.

Therefore, in my own name and on behalf of my colleagues at the Foreign Ministry, I recommend the sisters and brothers, the members of the National Assembly, to make a decision allowing the French nationals to leave or stay in Iraq. The ladies and gentlemen, members of the National Assembly, referred to some negative positions such as the French president's reception of the Croesus of Kuwait yesterday as well as the French authorities' position on the students. However, some positive changes did occur in the initially unjust positions. It is true the students were prevented from expressing their views and in some cases the French authorities even prevented the French themselves from voicing their opinions and placed obstacles to prevent the French press and television conveying the Iraqi view to the French public opinion.

Of course, the French forces are still there, France is taking part in the economic blockade against Iraq, France is still involved in the unjust resolutions issued by the Security Council against Iraq. All these are undeniable facts. However, we must view them within a comprehensive perspective, and here I can say that there exist positive changes in the French position—changes that consolidate our recommendation to adopt the resolution we are calling for. Can these developments in French policy reflect on Europe? The answer is yes. France plays a key role in Europe and the French stand always reflects on the European stands in one way or another. In fact, we feel positive changes in the European stand. The difference between France and other European states is that France proved in the past that it had the willpower to express itself that was stronger than those of the other European states whenever it had an independent opinion. This springs from the French people's history, which is known to us, and from the long experience of the independent French decisionmaking since the era of General Charles de Gaulle. We are somewhat optimistic that the European stand will gradually take the right course.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for your attention, and I am at your disposal if you still need further clarifications on this issue.

Following this, the proposal to give French nationals the freedom to leave or stay in Iraq was put to the vote in accordance with the contents of President Saddam Husayn's letter to the National Assembly speaker and members, and was approved by a majority of votes.

The National Assembly speaker then adjourned the extraordinary session, which was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary; the heads of the editors in chief of the local newspapers and magazines; and a number of the correspondents of Arab and foreign newspapers, magazines, television stations, and news agencies, including INA.

Food Convoy 'Gift' From Jordan Arrives 19 Oct

JN2310190290 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 90 pp 1, 9

[By Firdaws al-'Abbadi in Baghdad]

[Excerpts] "The Convoy of Charity and Love," carrying foodstuffs and milk for the children of Iraq as gift from the sons of the city of Ma'an, arrived in Baghdad from fraternal Jordan at dawn yesterday.

Shaykh Rasmi Abu-Rakhiyah, head of the committee organizing the convoy, told AL-JUMHURIYAH that the sons of Ma'an have been preparing the convoy since 20 September as part of their duty to the children of Iraq—a duty assumed by all Jordanian cities and governorates. This is a result of our great pride in President Saddam Husayn and his great heroic positions, he added. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Khalid 'Ulayyan, president of the Jordanian Truck Owners Association (Al-'Aqabah Branch) and one of the convoy supervisors, said the convoy is the first from Ma'an, the first Jordanian city to rip up the U.S. flag in front of the grand mosque and to express genuine Arab feelings for the issue of Iraq, an issue that concerns us all.

He said: We left directly from Ma'an, 130 km from the city of Tabuk inside the border of the Arabian Peninsula. But we were forced by (the UN group) to go back. They were very tough with us.

He adds: We returned, travelling for three days, and then we took the desert route until we entered Iraqi territory. [passage omitted]

Iran's Javar Reportedly Committed Suicide in 1982

JN2310192690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—Reacting to an AFP report citing an Iranian official on Iraq's continued holding of former Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Javad Jafar, INA asked a responsible source about the authenticity of this report. The responsible source denied it, saying the former Iranian oil minister had died by committing suicide during his imprisonment in 1982. The source added that Iraq formally informed the Iranian side via the head of the Red Cross mission in Baghdad, who was given the investigation documents at the time of his suicide, as well as the medical report and the death certificate in accordance with the provisions of the 1949 Third Geneva Convention on prisoners of war.

The source added that President Saddam Husayn informed Turkish President Turgut Ozal on 22 March 1986 of the death of the Iranian minister when Ozal, then prime minister of Turkey, visited Baghdad and asked his excellency the president whether it was possible to release him.

Source Denies Report on Arab Summit Contacts

JN2410130490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)—A responsible source has denied a report published in the Cairo newspaper AL-WAFD that contacts are being held among the Arab leaders to set the date for holding the Arab summit in Cairo next month and to guarantee the participation of all the Arab kings and presidents in it.

In a statement to INA, the source said: Although Iraq seeks to achieve Arab solidarity and to hold an Arab summit to resolve the Arab nation's problems, we emphasize that Cairo is not a suitable place and is not qualified to host such a summit. The source pointed out that Iraq had earlier clarified its position on the regime of Husni and its submission to the Americans and Zionists, and that that regime did not ensure the minimum level of neutrality and objectivity in the Cairo unanimous decision, which was aimed at providing cover for plotting against Iraq and for the arrival of the foreign forces that have desecrated the holy lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. The source said: Naturally Iraq rejects the holding of the summit in Cairo under a regime that has flagrantly turned into a tool of the United States and its allies.

Concluding, the source said: It is not only Iraq that refuses to attend such a summit, but no honest Arab will accept that a summit be held under the Israeli flag and in the presence of the politicians and inheritors of Camp David, because this summit will not be saved from their interference in the interest of their American and Zionist masters.

Jasim on Oil Sale, Conditions for Kuwait Pullout

AU2010201990 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 20 Oct 90 p 8

[Report on interview with Information Minister Lativ Jasim for REUTER and DIE WELT by Detlev Ahlers; in Baghdad on 18 Oct: "Kuwait Will Be Defended Like the Rest of Iraq"]

[Text] Baghdad—Iraq offers all customers, "even the United States," oil at the price of $21 per barrel, but the customer has to see to it that the oil is taken out of the state, blocked by trade sanctions. This was stated by Information Minister Latif Jasim in an interview for REUTER and DIE WELT on Thursday evening [18 October]. He confirmed that Iraq has drawn a new border for its "provinces" al-Basrah and Kuwait. In this way the south Rumaylah oilfield, two uninhabited islands and thus the entrance to the port of Umm Qasr belong to the province of al-Basrah, he said. In answer to the question why the border has been changed in this way, Jasim said that this is an internal affair of Iraq. Would the state be prepared to content itself with this and to withdraw from the rest of Kuwait? Jasim said: "It is a fact that Kuwait is the 19th province of Iraq, which will be defended like the rest of the country."

On the other hand, in the talk Jasim offered again (and exclusively) the proposals made by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August for the solution of the present crisis. They say that all "occupied" territories or territories that "are said to be occupied" in the Middle East have to be abandoned one after the other, that is, in the order in which the United Nations demanded. Accordingly, Iraq would be prepared to withdraw from Kuwait after Israel has abandoned "the occupied territories in Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine." Then the Kuwaitis' wish concerning the question by whom they want to be governed is "to be taken into account," Saddam said.

Referring to the taking of hostages, Jasim told REUTER and DIE WELT that it is too early to speculate on whether the visit of Edward Heath, who is expected on Saturday [20 October], will set something in motion. By the way, Iraq expects "every day" an attack of the troops stationed in Saudi Arabia and Israel and is "well prepared" for this war. However, Iraq will not start such a fight on its own initiative. In answer to the question whether Iraq will also use biological or chemical weapons, Jasim only said: "We will defend ourselves."

On Friday [19 October] the Iraqi Government gave the foreigners who are still in "the province of Kuwait" approximately 14 days grace to report to the immigration authorities. Foreigners who do not comply with this appeal were threatened with legal measures and further sanctions.

Correction to NHK Interview With Saddam

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Japanese TV Interviews Saddam on Gulf Situation," published in the 23 October Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 21: Page 22, Column two, fifth full paragraph to read: [Hirayama] Will you recognize Israel as a state under certain circumstances? (correcting question, providing indistinct words)

Shamir Says Sealing of Territories Temporary

TA2310153990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that even if the territories are totally sealed off and the entry of Arab residents of the territories into Israel is forbidden, these would only be temporary measures and not a permanent situation. Reacting to the attack on the two female soldiers this morning, the prime minister said that security measures are currently being stepped up throughout the country. Israeli citizens generally enjoy a high level of personal safety, Shamir asserted, even if there are passing waves of terrorist attacks from time to time.

Territories Closed

TA2310192690 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens tonight ordered the closure of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza for the exit of these districts' residents to Israel for several days. As of tomorrow morning, residents of the territories will not be allowed to enter Israel, while those staying in Israel will be obliged to return home. This was reported by our Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky. The order aims to calm the wave of violence.

Arens Comments

TA2410080290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Mr. Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Qital] The measure you are adopting today is very irregular. Is this because the situation is unusual?

[Arens] I believe that we have all reached that conclusion in view of the tragic events we have witnessed in recent days.

[Qital] Do you believe that the closure of the territories will be effective? How long can they be closed?

[Arens] The decision to prevent the entry of Arab laborers from the territories is meant to last only a few days. It will allow us to study the ways to supervise the entry of laborers from the territories to Israel. I hope it will also give the Palestinians in the territories time to reconsider the situation and the acts of murder and to reach the conclusion that pursuing this course of action will only cause a deterioration in the tragic situation of the Palestinian population in the territories.

[Qital] In your view, are the events of the past week a direct local response, serious as it may be, to the Temple Mount incident, or did that incident spark some sort of new wave which has hit us?

[Arens] I believe the main point is not the aspect to which you referred. I believe it is a demonstration on the part of the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, where there is a significant number of people who do not believe in the values in which we and the civilized world believe, fanatics for whom the value of human life means nothing. This, in effect, is the heart of the problem known as the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Qital] Yes, but while that element always exists—you yourself say that it is the basis of the Arab-Israeli conflict—there are periods of greater and lesser calm, and we are now experiencing one of the latter; the situation is far less calm now than at certain other times. The question involves issues beyond general value systems. The question is whether the latest incidents are an immediate response to a specific event, in which case we will be able to breathe freely in another few days, or whether this is a provocation which could last for a long time.

[Arens] The moment there is a relatively large number of people who are prepared to murder and harm even women and children, any excuse is good enough. Such incidents happen sometimes, and with the existing population in the Middle East there are always incidents. Sometimes somebody dreams something at night. Yesterday, we were told about Saddam Husayn, who dreamed that the prophet Muhammad appeared in his bedroom.

[Qital] By the way, that could be an optimistic dream, because Muhammad told him in the dream that Saddam should aim his missiles in a different direction.

[Arens] Yes, that could be. I believe we know what to read into that dream. But when an apparently significant sector of the population is prepared to attack and murder innocent people, then any excuse is good enough, and there is no problem finding excuses.

[Qital] Mr. Arens, aside from the terrible murders of Jews in Jerusalem and the attempted murders in several other locations, there is also the violent response by several Jews, who killed an Arab and wounded others. In other words, the violence is spreading to the Jewish community.

[Arens] First, I would like to express my deep regret about the murder of a local resident in the Rafah area, about which I just learned. There is no justification for it; such things must not happen. Human life is involved, whether it be a Jew or Arab. I call on the entire population, Jews and Arabs, to avoid such actions. They are illegal and are against the State of Israel's interests. We will not compromise on them. There are security forces—the police and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]—and they will deal with those who endanger lives in Israel.

[Qital] Mr. Arens, in conclusion, a topic which is not directly within your field: our relations with the United States. We hear the Security Council session has been postponed because of a U.S. attempt to lobby Israel regarding the UN delegation. There is even talk about a

U.S. message to Israel to try to find a compromise. How do you view these developments?

[Arens] I believe we are witnessing a certain wising up in Washington about the reality in the Middle East and in Israel. It is a process which we saw signs of after 2 August, when it began to wise up about Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi regime. I would like to take this opportunity, however, to say that the observers and journalists who referred to a grave crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations and forecast that relations in the future would never be the same again no doubt ignored the very firm foundation on which those relations are built. They have now witnessed the Senate's decision to provide Israel with benefits on a very wide scale in the defense sphere. The decision still requires the approval of the House of Representatives. I believe it is a sign of the great sympathy and friendship in the United States for Israel on which the relations between us are built.

[Qital] Thank you, Minister Arens.

Shamir Says 'Terrorist' Acts Penalized at Once

TA2310122490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister says that the Arabs must know they will not be able to kill Jews with impunity. Anyone who commits a terrorist act against us will be penalized at once. He claims that Israel must now embark on a two-pronged course of action: to stop violence and to avoid loss of life—a difficult task.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that in a meeting with a Netherlands parliamentary delegation, the prime minister noted that Israel wants its peace initiative to move ahead, but the situation in the Gulf and the atmosphere in the Middle East have made this impossible.

Mr. Shamir does not anticipate a crisis in relations with the United States. He described the differences of opinion with Washington on the Security Council resolution as a passing issue which no one will remember in just a few weeks.

Increase in Killings of 'Collaborators' Noted

TA2310185090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Three residents of the territories were murdered today after being suspected of collaboration with Israel. Ibrahim Hamdan Furayj, a 35-year-old taxi driver was murdered in Rafah. A 40-year-old man named Ahmad Hasan Shahada was also killed. This was reported by our correspondent Hasan Abu-Ziyad.

The body of Mahmud Salim Dahir was discovered near the village of Qarawat Bani-Zayd in the Ramallah District. Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that the Hebron settlers' information center claimed that a gun that was in Dahir's possession has disappeared. The information center several days ago had requested that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] issue weapons to 35 residents of Qarawat Bani-Zayd and give them communications equipment, but the IDF had refused.

Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip assert that since the bloody incident on the Temple Mount there has been an increase in attacks launched by masked men on residents suspected of collaboration with the authorities. They claimed that there were at least seven gangs in the Gaza Strip that carried out the elimination of suspects. Strangely enough, it is the religious organizations that have called for a stop in the murder of suspects, ruling that the collaborators should only be beaten so that they may repent and atone for their sins.

Arab Killed; Jewish Group Claims Responsibility

TA2410065090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Oct 90 p 10

[Report by Matthew Seriphs]

[Excerpt] One Palestinian was killed and three of his relatives were injured yesterday evening, when unidentified persons in a van with Israeli license plates opened fire on the car they were riding in, Palestinian sources said. They said the attackers were Jews. The three wounded men were taken to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus along with the dead man.

Army Radio reported that an organization calling itself "Ba'adi" [On My Own Behalf] said it had taken revenge against Arabs for the violent acts against Jews in the past few days. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 24 October reports that a Petah Tiqva laborer was attacked by a masked man while collecting garbage from residences. He was wounded in the face and head. The assailant escaped. It appears that the motive for the attack is "probably nationalistic."]

Likud Warns Arabs Against 'Terrorist Acts'

TA2310153690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The Likud has issued a warning to the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza stating that if terrorist acts continue, their source of livelihood in Israel will be seriously harmed, and the Palestinians will pay the heavy price of extremism and violence.

A new Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaflet disseminated in Judaea and Samaria today calls for a holy war and lauds the murderers of the three residents of Baq'a, Jerusalem. The leaflet calls on Palestinians to take a series of actions; it is directed at residents of the Galilee, Negev, and Triangle, as well as the territories.

UN Intervention Opposed Despite U.S. Appeals

TA2410123790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Now to the ongoing friction with the United States. Israel stands firm in its refusal to receive an envoy on behalf of the UN secretary general, despite appeals from President Bush. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir received a message from the U.S. President on this, but the President did not manage to change the Israeli Government's position. Our political correspondent Arye Golan brings us up to date:

The prime minister sent a personal message to President Bush last week. Mr. Shamir proposed turning over a new leaf in relations between the two countries after the Temple Mount killings and the Security Council resolution, and despite the Israeli Government's firm opposition to receiving a delegation on behalf of the UN secretary general. It appears, however, that the U.S. Administration is not in any hurry to make concessions.

In a recent exchange of messages between Washington and Jerusalem, there was talk of a possible alternative to the delegation, which would make it easier for the government to drop its opposition without appearing to harm its sovereignty over united Jerusalem. Among the ideas raised was the dispatch of an envoy instead of a delegation, who would come and hear whoever wished to appear before him. That idea, however, also appears undesirable to the Israeli Government. Despite the repeated appeals from the United States, we will not agree to any UN intervention in Jerusalem, Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Aharon] We tried to explain to the U.S. Administration that there are certain things across the red line, not only for us, but for any country that respects its sovereignty. Jerusalem is our capital. The United Nations has no status in the State of Israel's sovereign territory. This applies even more when it is the capital, Jerusalem, the apple of the Jewish people's eye, that is involved. What happened here is subject to the exclusive sovereign handling of the State of Israel through the Zamir commission. When that commission completes its work, its conclusions will become public, and we will willingly transmit them to the administration of the United States, our friend. If it will wish to pass them on to any other element, including the United Nations, it is welcome. The United Nations cannot have any status either in the investigation or in drawing conclusions, and even more so in presenting proposals to ensure the safety of Palestinians, as the UN resolution said. Such a thing is inconceivable.

[Golan] Despite the U.S. Administration's repeated appeals in this regard?

[Ben-Aharon] Despite its appeals. I believe we can understand the administration. It tried to find out if we are determined, if we are standing firm. I believe it reached the conclusion that we are determined and that it touched a very, very sensitive nerve for the State of Israel. It is a pity that situation had to be reached. I think we could have explained to them from the start that something like that just cannot take place. I believe they have now reached that conclusion. We very much hope that the U.S. Administration will find a way to end this chapter and will accept our assessment that it is the United States that is currently helping the Arab countries and that there is no need for it to make any other contribution to maintain the Arab coalition against Saddam Husayn. [end recording]

Despite everything, Jerusalem expects a return to calm in relations with Washington. On the acute issue, the Gulf crisis, Jerusalem says we and the United States are, of course, on the same side of the fence.

AL-FAJR Says U.S. Credibility Being Tested

TA2310174990 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 22 Oct 90 p 4

[Editorial: "A Test For the U.S."]

[Text] United States credibility is once again being put to the test, on two overlapping occasions, and both this time concern its foremost ally in the Middle East, Israel.

Last week, the U.S. State Department released a letter from Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi in which he gave clear assurances that his government will not settle Soviet Jews in areas which were not under Israeli control before June 5, 1967. Levi gave the assurances to free a U.S. $400 million housing loan to Israel which the State Department said it would not release until it received a promise that the money will not be used to build settlements in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem.

Israeli reaction to Levi's letter was critical because he included East Jerusalem in his assurances (though he did not mention it by name), since this section of the city was not under Israeli control prior to June 5, 1967. Pressure mounted for Levi to deny the letter, or at least confirm that he did not intend East Jerusalem to be included in the barred territories.

Levi did, and not only that, he went further, promising more Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem, and even further, in coordination with other ministries, he is creating lucrative benefits for Jews to settle in predominantly Palestinian East Jerusalem. This promise came despite the fact that Levi's letter had also promised "no special incentives exist to encourage Soviet Jewish immigrants to settle beyond the green line," referring to the pre-June 5, 1967 armistice line between Jordan and Israel.

Also last week, the United States backed U.N. Security Council Resolution 672 which called on the U.N. secretary-general to send a mission to the occupied territories to investigate the police shooting of 21 Palestinians to death and wounding of hundreds more at al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem on Oct. 8. Israel was upset at the decision and said it will not cooperate with the U.N. mission. U.S. President George Bush, on the other hand said that the United States was committed to seeing the U.N. resolution "fully implemented."

These two credibility tests will demand some kind of action from the United States if it is going to maintain an international consensus against Iraq. On the housing loan test, the United States will not only be required to withhold the U.S. $400 million from Israel, but also to threaten to cut U.S. aid to Israel if the latter continues to build settlements in the occupied territories. Everyone knows that the money coming from the United States, even though not overtly directed toward the building of settlements, frees other Israeli monies for that purpose.

On the U.N. resolution test, the United States will be required to support any Security Council action against Israel if it refuses to abide by the council's dictates. Secretary of State James Baker has already stated that not admitting the mission, "moves Israel and moves our effort in the Gulf in the wrong direction."

Baker is right. The United States cannot expect support for its actions in the Gulf when it is clearly not applying the same standard elsewhere in the world. This message was made very clear to Washington, first and foremost by its allies in Europe.

The United States is currently at a critical juncture. It should not be difficult for it to make the right choice. Its credibility this time is not only being hurt among the Arab nation, but also among its allies throughout the world.

Ukrainian Minister on Immigration, Direct Flights

*TA2310140590 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
23 Oct 90 p A6*

[Report by Amir Gilat]

[Excerpt] "Approximately 200,000 Jews are currently waiting in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to receive exit visas for Israel; however, the problem, to the best of my knowledge, is that Israel cannot cope with the rate of immigration, and not the opposite way around."

"No Jew today faces any problems in immigrating to Israel, nor have I heard of any hesitation among Jews to immigrate because of the absorption difficulties in Israel." These remarks were made by Andrey [Kalinin], the coordinating minister for economic, commercial, and cultural affairs [name and title as published], in the Ukrainian Government, now visiting Qiryat Bialik.

The visiting minister revealed his intention to organize direct flights between Kiev and Tel Aviv—even if only charter flights—which could also be utilized by new immigrants.

According to Kalinin, contacts are underway between the organizers of these flights, but not on the political level. He added that these days there is a tense atmosphere between the Ukrainian Government and the central Soviet Government, especially between several members of parliament from each side. This tension comes against the background of Ukrainian radicals to secede from the Soviet Union.

"I personally do not believe there is justification for an independent Ukrainian state," Kalinin said.

He revealed that the deputy prime minister of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, who handles government affairs, has expressed readiness to forge close ties with Israel. [passage omitted]

U.S., Finnish Nationals Arrive From Iraq

JN2410101090 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Five Finnish nationals arrived in Amman on their way home from Baghdad. The five were allowed to leave Iraq following a visit by three Finnish members of parliament . The Finnish foreign minister today expressed delight over their release and said his government will continue efforts to release nine other Finns in Iraq.

Meanwhile, fourteen sick and elderly Americans arrived tonight in Amman from Baghdad.

President Saddam Husayn yesterday told the head of the U.S.-Iraqi Friendship Society that he will allow some Americans to leave.

Prince Hasan Interviewed on Gulf Crisis Efforts

JN2310125490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 22 Oct 90

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has stated that at the outset of the Gulf crisis, His Majesty King Husayn and a number of Arab leaders tried to find an Arab solution to the crisis and that there was an opporunity to reach such a solution. In an interview with French television, aired last night, his highness said that his majesty had obtained a promise to withdraw from Kuwait, but unfortunately that chance was missed in the tragic history of the crisis.

His highness also said that the Arab solution to the crisis was clearly included in the third paragraph of Security Council Resolution 660, that this means there is no Arab or international solution, and that Arab contribution is part of international legitimacy. He expressed the hope that Jordan and some Arab countries will reach a common ground between international legitimacy and Arab contribution.

His highness pointed out that French President Mitterrand's recent speech before the United Nations constitutes one possibility for averting war in the region and that the Soviet Union, some European countries, and Japan also give some hope on the international level.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan said that Jordan is trying to secure the success of all diplomatic initiatives, adding: The world is talking to Baghdad through Amman. This is a great responsibility because some Westerners and Arabs who support the military option, believe that Jordan supports Iraq. We denounced the invasion of Kuwait and clearly said that we are against annexation as a principle, because we are against the annexation of Jerusalem.

He added: We are trying to maintain some sort of independence. I believe it is essential for the world to see a role for the Arab countries.

His highness affirmed that international standards should be applied everywhere and that over the past three years, every Jordanian has witnessed the violent acts in the occupied Arab territories in which 45,000 people were wounded and 800 martyred.

His highness said that solving the Gulf crisis will give hope for securing a solution to the other regional problems, especially the Palestine question.

Asked if the nature of the conflict is changing and if there is a new Crusade campaign, as some people say, his highness said that for three years, he has been supporting dialogue between the three religions, that he believes in such a dialogue, and that the issue of Jerusalem is a religious one.

He added: When we talk about old Jerusalem, religious fanaticism of the extreme right-wing parties surfaces because of the Gulf crisis. We believe that conflicts among countries and governments are gradually turning from conflicts among the faithful into a wider and deeper conflict with religious roots. It is very important for us to maintain a moderate position toward the world, which is interested in the Middle East, and toward all cultures and religions.

On the future of peace in the region, his highness said that if Iraq continues to be a massive military power as it is now, the main aim of some countries may be to destroy this military structure, and I fear that the demand of Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait might be a secondary objective.

When some talk about the chemical, bacteriological, and nuclear weapons, it should be known that not only Iraq possesses these weapons, but also Israel, Syria, Egypt, and Libya.

Asked about the difficulties Jordan is currently facing, Crown Prince Hasan said that these are not only economic problems, and that Jordan should clearly know within a month what assistance it is going to receive.

He said Jordan is under continuous political pressure, not only economic pressure.

If we send troops to Saudi Arabia tomorrow, he said, the situation may change. We are ready to send troops to disengage two Arab sides, and we had said up to the seventh of August that the Jordanians, Muslims, and Arabs are ready to solve inter-Arab disputes, he added.

Asked about the economic sectors that suffered most, his highness answered: It is the savings of Jordanian workers in Kuwait. For Jordan, the Gulf states represent an important window. This is in addition to the halt of vegetable exports to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. We have lost about 50 percent of our gross national product, he said.

Asked about the impact of the implementation of boycott against Iraq on Jordan and whether Jordan is the primary victim of this boycott—as though it was the invader of Kuwait—His Highness Prince Hasan said: We are being punished because we dared and tried to establish a deep link among the problems of this region.

We have proved that Jordan firmly observes the international resolutions and that it believes in and can serve peace and stability in the region, he said.

His highness added that Jordan does not buy oil from Iraq, and the question is not one of oil export. Jordan receives Iraqi oil as repayment of about $100 million Iraqi debts owed to Jordan, he explained.

If we export the Iraqi oil, this will be a violation of the blockade and sanctions against Iraq; but our border with Iraq is almost closed, and even medicines and milk are not sent to Iraq, and we are still awaiting answers from the UN Sanctions Committee regarding this issue.

His highness added: We have been promised $50 million in aid of the evacuees as compensation for the damage and direct and indirect responsibilities toward Jordan, but we received only $4 million. It seems that the United States is still putting some conditions for the assistance; it believes that Jordan is not doing enough to deserve assistance, he stated.

We have the right to choose how to live and how to die, and for us, life itself is a principle, his highness asserted.

Soviet Members of Joint Committee Arrive

JN2310192890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1620 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Amman, 23 Oct (PETRA)—Soviet members of the joint Jordanian-Soviet committee, led by Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy minister of foreign economic relations, arrived in Amman today. The committee will begin its work in Amman tomorrow. [passage omitted]

UN Development Program Official Ends Visit

JN2310193890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Amman, 23 Oct (PETRA)—Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah Nur, deputy director of the UN Development Program and regional director of Arab and Europe regions at the UN, left Amman this morning following a three-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Royal Highness Princess Basmah, chairwoman of the board of trustees of the Queen Alia Fund for Voluntary Social Work. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Receives $1.5 Million From Taiwan

JN2310185290 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Oct 90 Second Edition p 1

[Text] Amman, PETRA—Salamah Hammad, secretary general of the Interior Ministry and head of the committee entrusted with caring for evacuees, has received a check of $1.5 million from Taiwan to help the committee in its humanitarian efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the evacuees arriving from Iraq and Kuwait.

The check was handed to Salamah Hammad when he received Peter Cheng [name as published], director of Tawain's Middle East Trade Center in Amman.

During the meeting, Cheng said his country intends to provide the committee with assistance in kind to help Jordanian efforts to care for evacuees succeed until their repatriation to their home countries.

Columnist Views Saudi Statements on Iraq

JN2310113290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Oct 90 p 20

["I Say a Word" column by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar: "The Saudi Defense Minister's Statements"]

[Text] It is natural for a responsible Arab prince to make the statements which the Saudi defense minister made yesterday, particularly at this highly critical phase in the contemporary Arab history in general and in the history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in particular.

The key element in the prince's statements are not the words of praise he used to describe Iraq and the Iraqi people. No, the key element in his statements concerns what he said about Iraqi rights—the words in which he affirmed that moving a tract of Arab land from the sovereignty of one Arab state to another neighboring state is subject to Arab understanding, and is not a thorny issue, as long as the Arab identity of this tract of land is maintained. These words mean that the options being promoted by imperialist quarters and their colonialist allies are erroneous. This also means that these options would be viewed as inconsequential in international fora if the Saudi UN delegate were to raise his voice at the United Nations and demand the withdrawal of the multinational force from his country and to announce that the Arab League, an Arab summit, or any existing or new Arab institution has more right and ability to tackle the crisis than those who are promoting war.

We have repeatedly drawn attention in this column to the fact that the war being promoted by the evil woman in Downing Street will not break out in Wales, Scotland, or Ireland nor will it affect British installations or British civilians. This war will first of all take place on Saudi land and then on Kuwaiti land. The sparks of the war will then spill over into the remaining areas in this part of our Arab homeland. Imperialist quarters which planned this war will also reap the fruits of it. As for us, we will have the destruction of war and its evil consequences. Yes, the Arabs are capable of resolving the Gulf crisis and any other Arab crisis regardless of the conflicting positions they might have on it.

The most serious thing happening right now is that the conflict is being directed against the Arab peoples. There can be no explanation, sensible rationale, religious or Arab sentiment that would sanction an Arab to allow this strange mixture of imperialists and colonialists and their hirelings to starve the fraternal Iraqi people—the elderly, children, and lactating women. To deny a sick Iraqi person access to the medicine he needs is an unprecedented crime in the history of mankind? Can such measures be enforced and implemented without affecting pan-Arab and Islamic sentiments and ties?

The blockade should be halted immediately and a return to the Arab and Islamic spirit effected. The crisis should be tackled through this spirit and not through Bush's frenzy and his attempts to cover up for his family, administration, and domestic problems. The noble Arab traditions rather than the conspiracies of this woman who is emerging from the files of the British colonial rule of the 17th century, should be used to tackle this crisis.

If we were to believe in this precept, we would need answers to the following questions: Whose interests is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia serving by imposing a blockade on its northern neighbor, Jordan? And whose interest is Saudi Arabia serving by eliciting the enmity of its southern neighbor, the Yemenis? These enmities are being directed toward peoples—the peoples of the countries adjacent to Saudi Arabia. Is the conspiracy directed against the peoples and governments of Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen? Or is there somebody who harbors evil intentions toward Saudi Arabia? And to achieve this objective, is he taking a first step, that of nursing hostility in the hearts of these peoples, before implementing a scheme targeting Saudi Arabia's regime, people, and wealth?

The Saudi defense minister referred to Iraq's strike force. There is no doubt that this force, along with all other Arab forces, will stand on the side of Saudi Arabia if the latter were to ask its unwelcome guests to leave. However, history teaches us that these occupiers will not leave their bases if they get settled there. This is what happened to Egypt when Khedive Tawfiq asked for their protection for five years. They remained in place until 'Abd-al-Nasir came and forced them to leave. We still cherish our Arabism and we hope that fraternal sentiments will not be blown away with the wind.

President, Syria's Khaddam Discuss Current Issues

NC2310203090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said that it is for the Lebanese to decide whether they wish to give priority to establishing a new government or creating greater Beirut. He said: There is no problem regarding the issue of militias and, as far as I can tell, all parties want to help save Lebanon. He stated that Syria is prepared to help the Lebanese Government achieve peace and accord. He added: I hope the issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon is resolved in the near future. Khaddam made these remarks after lengthy talks with President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Also attending these talks on the Lebanese side were Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, while Army Commander General Emile Lahhud attended a portion of the talks. On the Syrian side the talks were attended by Major General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff, and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the intelligence service operating in Lebanon:

Khaddam said: [Begin recording] [Khaddam] We arrived in Beirut at noon today at the invitation of His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi. This is a good opportunity to discuss the current situation in Lebanon following the ending of the military rebellion by former officer Michel 'Awn. We held an in-depth discussion of measures conducive to advancing the march of national accord, peace, and security in Lebanon. I emphasized to his excellency the president the assurance from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad that Syria will continue to offer all forms of support and assistance to the Lebanese Government to achieve security, peace, and accord in Lebanon. I would like to express my (?pleasure) at the fraternal atmosphere that prevailed during the discussions, the good results reached, and the [words indistinct] related to Syria's support for the legitimate Lebanese Government to extend its authority and control throughout Lebanon and to consolidate the march of national reconciliation and accord among the various Lebanese (?factions). His excellency has given me a message to convey to His Excellency President al-Asad. I would like to thank President al-Hirawi for the warm hospitality he has accorded us since our arrival.

[Unidentified reporter] In your talks, you naturally touched on the militias. As is known, there is a six-month deadline for dissolving the militias. If certain militias do not want to respond positively to this demand, how should they be dealt with?

[Khaddam] I believe that every party will respond positively to the process of national accord and will cooperate to restore all authority to the legitimate government and state. As a matter of fact, the national accord endorsed by the Chamber of Deputies specified the measures that must be taken to achieve comprehensive security throughout Lebanon. It also specified Syria's role in assisting the Lebanese Government to extend its authority and achieve security and peace in Lebanon. I do not believe that there is any party that will obstruct the march of security and peace and, therefore, I do not think that anything more than a series of dialogues and contacts with the various organizations will be necessary. As far as I know, all parties want to contribute toward saving the country and reaching the harbor of peace and security.

[Reporter] Regarding the militias that are affiliated with Israel, we know that for the past two days Israel has been trying to escalate the situation in Lebanon. In your view, how can the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon be dealt with, and what role can Syria play to assist the legitimate government to extend its authority to the occupied parts of southern Lebanon?

[Khaddam] The national accord document deals with southern Lebanon and liberating it from the Israeli occupation, and it defines the framework for achieving this goal. Syria will offer any support it can to the Lebanese Government to liberate southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation. All these points are outlined in the national accord document. I firmly believe that the Lebanese Government will do all it can to liberate and restore southern Lebanon.

[Reporter] Will there be any reconciliation among the disputing Lebanese forces in the near future in order to consolidate the efforts to reach a solution [words indistinct]?

[Khaddam] As I understand from his excellency the president, Speaker al-Husayni, and from Prime Minister al-Huss, the Lebanese Government, with assistance from Syria, will exert great efforts in the next stage to eliminate the causes of disputes and tension among the various organizations in order to achieve national accord and reconciliation.

[Reporter] There is talk about efforts to resolve the issue of Iqlim al-Tufah in the near future. Will the visit to Damascus by [Iranian Foreign Minister] Velayati bring about positive and rapid results?

[Khaddam] I believe that peace will prevail in Iqlim al-Tuffah. As a matter of fact, there is cooperation between us and the brothers in Iran to help defuse the fighting and conflict in Iqlim al-Tuffah and in other areas in Lebanon. We will certainly put an end to the tragic and painful situation in this and other areas.

[Reporter] Mr. Vice President, there are priorities on the road to a solution. Among these, will you give precedence to the creation of a government that includes all parties or to any security steps, such as the establishment of a greater Beirut?

[Khaddam] This issue concerns the Lebanese Government, and we will give all the support we can to anything that the Lebanese Government deems necessary.

[Reporter] What about the foreign hostages in Lebanon?

[Khaddam] This issue has been on the table for some time. We are working in cooperation with other parties to put an end to this anomalous state of affairs in Lebanon. [end recording]

President, Cabinet Discuss Greater Beirut Plan

NC2410095790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The cabinet met at 1030 today under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi and in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and the ministers, except for Ministers Walid Junblatt and Michel Sasin.

Special importance is being attached to this meeting as it will put the final touches to the measures which will be implemented after the termination of the rebellion, including the plan to establish greater Beirut. The cabinet will also deal with a number of economic issues.

Ja'ja' on Acceptance of Greater Beirut Plan

NC2310222090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has stated that we are on the threshold of a new era in Lebanon. He said: I do not believe that with the anticipated moves, we will differ over whether an expanded government is formed before a greater Beirut is established, or vice versa. This is especially so because all parties agree on the principle. He pointed out that the Lebanese Forces believe that work will begin with steps in both directions. He said: If we go ahead with a plan for greater Beirut, this is our contribution to measures to give hope and stability to Lebanon.

In a statement to the BBC, Ja'ja' said that the Lebanese Forces' acceptance of a plan for a greater Beirut is not conditional on any other issue and is separate from any other step. He noted that the issue of forming a government is another issue all together. He stressed that when the government finally decides to establish a greater Beirut from Nahr al-Kalb to the al-Awwali River and to extend its full authority over it, the Lebanese Forces will immediately be ready to respond positively. He stressed the need for this step to be taken seriously by the West Beirut parties, and for the legitimate government's authority not to be confined only to the Lebanese Forces-held areas, because this would mean that the step was not being seriously considered.

Ja'ja' described the talk about reconciliation among Maronites or Christians as a very distorted approach, and an attempt to revive certain small parties. He stressed the need for comprehensive national reconciliation among the main parties, after which all those involved in the Lebanese crisis can be included. He noted that the strength that the al-Ta'if accord can give to the Lebanese Government was one of the reasons we accepted that accord, which explicitly provides for the restoration of the sovereignty, freedom, and independence of the Lebanese state, albeit gradually. It is from this premise that we view the al-Ta'if accord, the legitimate Lebanese Government, and this government's relations with Syria.

Hizballah Positions Taken by Army, Syrian Forces

NC2410094690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The Lebanese Army and Syrian Forces have taken over Hizballah positions along the line extending from Sufayr to al-Hadath, al-Shuwayfat, and al-Hajjaj. The Syrian Forces redeployed in the Southern Suburb and established static roadblocks in new positions and in the positions which they evacuated during the operation to end 'Awn's rebellion on 13 October.

According to some reports, the army command has prepared and equipped a military force which will soon deploy in al-Ashrafiyah, Sinn al-Fil, al-Dawrah, and al-Karantinah.

Meanwhile, internal security forces' patrols have been working since this morning to remove stalls from the major streets, particularly Sports City Street.

French Ambassador Explains Dumas Initiative

NC2310162190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] In an interview with the Spanish newspaper EL MUNDO, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss affirmed that General 'Awn will stay at the French Embassy in Beirut until further notice. He added that 'Awn and his two aides transferred public funds to private bank accounts illegally. Al-Huss regretted that the French requested that the United Nations investigate the situation in Lebanon without first consulting with him.

After a meeting with Prime Minister al-Huss, French Ambassador Rene Ala explained that his country called on the UN Security Council to hold consultations over Lebanon because France does not want the international community to forget Lebanon. He added that French Foreign Minister Dumas' initiative in this regard is a new sign of the continuing French concern for Lebanon, not an indication of a deterioration in relations.

Regarding Gen. 'Awn's fate, Ala said there are no new developments on this issue. He stated that when political asylum is granted, the individuals who are given this asylum come under the protection of the country concerned.

Hizballah Leader on Conflict With Amal

PM2410094690 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 17 Oct 90 pp 22, 23

[Lebanese publication AL-'AHD interview with secretary general of Hizballah, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli printed in issue 318 of the publication, translated by Mehrdad Azad for KEYHAN HAVAI]

[Text] [KEYHAN HAVAI introduction] Fighting between Amal and Hizballah, two of Lebanon's powerful Shiite organizations, has caused a weakening of the Muslim community in that country. Unfortunately the solutions so far provided have not been able to remove the root of the differences. The main reason for the differences, it seems, is Amal's fear that Hizballah is becoming too powerful. Foreign influences and the Western governments also have a major hand in fanning the flames of this conflict. In this connection the interview of the AL-AHA'D publication with Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, the secretary general of Hizballah, could to a certain extent be useful in clarifying the issues of the conflict. We read this interview together:

[AL-'AHD] Factional fighting has taken on a dangerous outlook in the past few days. What is your position in this regard and what do you predict?

[Al-Tufayli] This war became more severe a few days before the Feast of the Sacrifice at the call from Nabih Birri to fight Hizballah. Before that the situation was more or less normal. Apart from some small infiltration operations on the part of Amal, there was no other issue. Following this call, there was a lot of political and military action and there were extensive contacts. We have also had news which indicates very important meetings between officials of the Amal movement and Israeli officials and the forces of Lahd in the border strip. We did not show any hurry. We thought it best to wait a while so the situation could get back to normal. Of course alongside these actions there were other movements which were spreading, along with provocations and small operations up until the time Israel bombed the positions of the Islamic resistance and Amal in the area of Jarju'. This event took us by surprise, and before the dust could settle there was a major attack by Amal against the bombed area. We then realized that the issue was not as simple as it seemed, that it was very serious and very dangerous. At that moment our crusaders were under the rubble, and there were others who were wounded, but those that were still healthy were able to confront this attack. We understood the issue then and took the military movements and the threats seriously. Then at 0300 hours Israeli and Amal gunfire started raining down on our brothers' heads in an insane manner, which forced them to strengthen their positions in Jarju'. Therefore it was only to defend ourselves against this wicked attack on us that our brothers decided to strengthen their positions. This is natural for anyone who comes under attack, as we were. After this we again quite accidentally encountered things which were most definitely planned in advance, including the widespread deployment of Palestinian forces in various areas, away from areas of conflict, whose significance is more than the fighting between Amal and Hizballah. We said before that the people of South Lebanon are facing enormous and uncertain dangers. We keep all these things in mind, and in fact we believe that there have been deals made with regard to South Lebanon. The chance to save it from the plots and dangers that Nabih Birri has dreamed up for it is slight, and its future faces explosive and dangerous situations.

The other issue is the coordinated military activity and military cooperation either with Israel and Lahd's forces or with other Lebanese mercenaries. The journalists that Nabih Birri took to Iqlim al-Tuffah, to show them the place of his aggression, saw with their own eyes the clear and total cooperation between the Amal movement and their allies on the one side and Lahd's men and Israel on the other side.

Amal says that Israel bombed both Amal and Hizballah positions. But journalists and the people of South Lebanon saw clearly that the bombing was only against the positions of the Islamic resistance and that there was no attack whatsoever on the other groups.

In this regard what is certain is that plans were made in advance. When a few days before the Feast of Sacrifice Nabih Birri asked everyone to stand firm against the Hizballah, it did not occur to us that the word "all" also included the Israelis and Lahd's men as well, until we saw with our own eyes their serious and complete cooperation. Of course the resistance forces withstood all their attacks because they had no other choice. At present in this connection there are some solutions, efforts, and ideas, and there are some who speak of these solutions and indicate that they have ways of ending this conflict. But all these methods point to one aim, and that is the removal of Hizballah. Those who have not been able to remove Hizballah through military means are now trying to remove it through political means.

Amid all this, there are only two possible solutions. They must either come to an agreement with us, or else we will defend ourselves to the death. There is no third option. This is why we have decided to defend ourselves. Despite the fact that everyone has decided to fight against us, we urge them to reconsider, to have peace and accord. In reality it is a great crime to have the youth of Amal or other combatant forces killed near the Israeli border, in the border strip, not in defense of Islam, the Islamic ummah, or the Lebanese people. They should know that when some of our crusaders in Jabal Safi are killed by the Israelis or Amal forces, when the smoke from Israeli or Amal shells wafts over the skies of Jabal Safi, Suwaydah, Jarju', 'Ayn Bu-Jiwar, Jba', Kafar Fila, and Kafar Milki, we still proffer our hands to them because we want to have accord with them, to resolve our problems through negotiations. We tell them that we must gather in one place to talk, and only leave that place if we have reached an agreement. Without a doubt, any result that can be achieved through that will be better than the results we have achieved in the past two years. My prediction is that they will try their luck in a war with the Islamic resistance. The resistance has no choice but to defend itself, because otherwise its downfall and destruction is certain. Under these conditions its destruction is religiously not a good idea.

[AL-'AHD] You want accord with Amal while you accuse them of cooperating with Israel. You claim that existing information indicates that there have been meetings in this connection. How can peace and accord be achieved with these sorts of accusations?

[Al-Tufayli] Yes, they cooperate with Israel and all the news agencies have seen this cooperation and confirm it. This is not surprising, and we have the documents and figures to prove this claim. Even the watchman and the man in charge of guiding Israeli shells is the same man who does the same thing for Amal. We have proof and witnesses in this connection. We urge them to stop cooperating with Israel, to come back to the arms of resistance, the ummah, our people and their dignity, to shun degradation. Our invitation to peace and accord with them is in terms of asking them to resist and to stay steadfast so they can maintain their dignity. Instead of being mercenaries for Israel, they should adopt the path of standing against it. Anyone, whoever he may be and in whatever position he may be, if he fights against the Islamic resistance, he is in fact standing alongside Israel.

[AL-AHD] You said that all the solutions put forward so far have been aimed at removing Hizballah. Did the Damascus agreement seek the same aim—even though you yourself agreed to it?

[Al-Tufayli] No. I did not mean those actions which included compromise and mutual agreements, like the Damascus accord or the actions of Georges Hawi and so forth. We respect all such accords and we cooperate with them. I meant the statements which seem to be aimed at finding a solution but are not able to solve any problem and are not really considered to be proper solutions. You must remember that the recent crisis occured 9 years after tensions between us and Amal began, resulting in the issue of the western al-Biqa' and Beirut. We tried very hard not to enter those conflicts. We told Nabih Birri right from the start not to make a mistake, not to enter such conflicts thinking he could come out as winner. But it seems that this person had decided in advance to engage the Islamic resistance in a war and it seems that he cannot contradict himself now. How can you excuse his clash with Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah? Confronting Hizballah, he says he wants permission to go to the South and pray in his own mosque and to speak about Islam. He says he wants religious and political freedom. This freedom exists even in the worst countries of the world, among the worst people of the world. But our youth visit Amal prisons once in a while and they stay there for a while and then come back. Then they are put in prison again and this prison goes on. In this way they are denied freedom, and this action of Amal is condemned. All we want is to be granted political freedom. In the face of this request Nabih Birri prepares for war and also for help and engages in all-out cooperation with Lahd and Israel and opens the doors of the South to Yasir 'Arafat. He, who lets 'Arafat into the South—will he be able to tell him to leave tomorrow? Has he thought about the future? In general we accept all solutions which really try to remove from their roots all the existing problems.

[AL-'AHD] It seems that the sporadic fighting between Amal and Hizballah is unrelated to time, place, or conditions, rather these are wars designed to destroy one or the other side. What is your view on this?

[Al-Tufayli] We are sure that the aim of these wars is to eliminate us. We have not thought for one minute about destroying the Amal movement. We believe that the presence of a movement such as Amal in the South is a necessity. We are not saying this to make Hizballah look good, but, rather, this is something that we have believed since before the war with Amal started. We think that Hizballah cannot play the role that Amal can play in the South. Hizballah cannot replace Amal in the South. How can you imagine that Hizballah, which is resisting Israel, while the enemy is looking for its positions to bombard, can build a defense in the gate of Nabatiyah—the half-way point between the Israeli border and South Lebanon? While Hizballah is undertaking various operations against Israel, something like that would be impossible. This is why Hizballah cannot be responsible for security in the South, and there must be another group for this. So long as Amal is in charge of this, as far as we are concerned the problem is solved. It would be to our detriment for us to think that Amal must be removed or weakened still further, keeping in mind the situation in the government and the ministries and other considerations. The problem for the Lebanese regime at present is that its structure is based on the ethnic minorities. Therefore, if there is to be a Shiite minister in the cabinet—keeping in mind that the Hizballah and the resistance are in the opposition—there must be a minister in this government. In that case there will be no problem with Hizballah.

In many respects Hizballah does not see itself to be in conflict with Amal. All Hizballah wants is to be given political and cultural freedoms in the South. Not only do we not seek the destruction of others, but we consider it to our advantage that they remain, and they have many reasons to believe this. Even when they had conflicts with many people, we made a huge effort to ensure that they would remain. But unfortunately now they ask all groups for help in order to destroy us. This is our position with regard to the Amal movement.

In connection with the Amal movement's position with regard to us, their efforts to remove the Hizballah are very clear. We say, let us have accord between us, but they have no such intention. We say, end the war against Islam, but they started their war against us in the South. We laid down our weapons and said to them, let us follow a path of peace. You are very greedy, you want a bigger share, and we are prepared to give you a bigger share: Just end the War because its continuation is a catastrophe. We laid down our weapons because we knew that if we entered into this war the Muslims of

Lebanon, especially the Shiites, would pay a very high price.. But even after reaching an agreement, they refused to honor it.

This is when it became clear that Birri insists on destroying Hizballah. If this is not so, then let us reach an agreement. We are right now willing to stop all military activity against Amal.

[AL-'AHD] There are some who accuse Hizballah of constantly rejecting all solutions put forward to end the crisis in Lebanon and that the recent war in Iqlim al-Tuffah was intended to establish an Islamic republic in Lebanon. What is your view on this?

[Al-Tufayli] I wish to continue my remarks about the effort to remove Hizballah. Some of the warring factions have invented aims in the name of Hizballah and they have announced these to the public, creating the impression that Hizballah's aims are diverse. We keep saying that we have but one aim, but they keep saying that we have other goals. It must be known that we are Muslims, that we believe in God and the Koran. We believe that as long as Israel exists we cannot establish an Islamic regime in Lebanon. If, for example, we wish to establish the rule of God in Lebanon, the first step and precondition would be to guide all efforts and facilities toward the liberation of Palestine. This is the aim of all the factions in lebanon; They all want to see Palestine liberated. So if they are sincere, then we all share this goal. Another thing is that we want to make the Lebanese aware of the power of Islam and its ability to resolve all their problems and to create a government and greatness. If we are successful in this and if the majority of Lebanese—Christians and Muslims alike—want Islam, then we will determine a regime through a referendum, and the vote of the majority will be decisive. If the majority decide against Islam, then that is how it will be.

[AL-'AHD] How do you view Hizballah's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the brother country, Syria?

[Al-Tufayli] First of all, relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are as demanded by Islam—we are brothers with all Muslims. There is a saying in this connection, that "If there is a Muslim who spends the night not thinking about other Muslims and their problems, he is not a Muslim." In this regard it is our duty to end the affairs of all Muslims throughout the world. On this basis, the Iranians are my brothers, just as the citizens of Beirut are my brothers. This is a truth of which every Muslim is aware. The people and the government of the Islamic Republic showed their honesty in their promise and their position as well as giving their help in our confrontation against Israel and NATO troops which were present in Lebanon.

They are also honest in their slogans for Palestine and want to implement the rule of Islam and the greatness of the Koran. This is why they are 100 percent our brothers; and it is up to us to help them, and they should also cooperate with us. When there was an earthquake in some parts of Iran we caried out our religious duties in accordance with the commands of God. Similarly, they help us in the face of problems and difficulties. The Islamic Republic has done all it can to sort out our problems with Amal and has sent various delegations. Their eagerness to resolve the issue went so far that some thought they could force Iran to accept their demands and as a result insult and ignore them. But Iran, because of its kindness, showed them a kind face. Unfortunately these people were misguided and abused this kindness and behaved very badly. But Iran continues to try to solve the issue, despite existing obstacles. It asks the various factions to implement the Damascus agreement. The Islamic Republic supports us and Islam and is a true regime that has risen to confront the United States and aggression worldwide. This is why the Iranians are our brothers and, contrary to what some people think—that they give the orders and we listen—we sit and negotiate with them on equal terms. They have their views, and we have ours. We try to achieve what is best for the Muslims through negotiations and logic, but there are those who try to say that we are in Iran's camp in Lebanon that we take our orders from them. In fact they have ulterior motives. We think that in Islamic and religious law all Muslims have the duty to follow the Faqih, who is a leader, an imam. It makes no difference whether this Faqih is Lebanese, Syrian, Iraqi, Iranian, Pakistani, or Indian, or from somewhere else. At present it so happens that the leader of the Muslims lives in Tehran. If tomorrow he were to reside in a Beirut suburb, then all Muslims must to follow him. Therefore our relations with the Islamic Republic are fraternal and Islamic.

With regard to Syria, I must say: It is the only Arab government that has so far maintained its hostile and steadfast position with regard to Israel. As you can see, all Arab governments have given in to Israeli and American plans, except for Syria, which has remained steadfast and has withstood various pressures. The second point is that nobody can consider himelf a fighter against Israel unless he has good ties with Syria, because otherwise he will be surrounded. In connection with Syria's presence in Lebanon, it is because Syria wants to see changes made in Lebanon so that there is a just regime there. We also agree with wanting changes in Lebanon and the elimination of bullies. We regard ties with Syria as strategic and crucial. We also stress relations with Iran, just as we stress relations with Syria and the struggle against Israel. We also stress on the Damascus agreement.

[AL-'AHD] People are confused by the existence of many views and wonder why there is no joint meeting between yourselves and the Amal leaders to announce the truth and the various positions. If Amal agrees to a direct meeting, are you ready to negotiate face to face?

[Al-Tufayli] We are completely ready. We are ready to take part in public and private meetings. We are innocent, and all the world should know the truth. Our only crime is that we resisted and liberated our country. Is there anyone who believes that the United States and Israel withdrew through negotiations? Without a doubt, they withdrew because of the use of arms. We have more of a share in this regard. The American withdrawal was not a result of the war with Amal, because Amal actually condemned all the operations that took place against the Americans. It was Hizballah that went to war against the Americans, British, and French and destroyed their headquarters. The issue of Hizballah being armed is another aspect of the resistance. When Israel was pushed out of South Lebanon after three years of occupation, it announced that it had lost 700 men. When you compare the Hizballah operations with the Israeli dead, you will see that most of the Israelis were killed in Hizballah operations. Everyone knows the groups that participated in the resistance, and may God bless them; but Hizballah was the great spirit of the resistance and was able to deal an effective blow to Israel to drive it out of the border strip. So Israel was pushed out by our operations, not by negotiations.

Al-Asad Receives Senegalese Foreign Minister

JN2310155890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1000 today Senegalese Foreign Minister Oumar Sy Seydina. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Oumar Sy Seydina handed the president a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. The president asked him to carry a reply message.

Khaddam Returns From Beirut 23 Oct

JN2410102090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus last night following a visit to Beirut during which he met with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Khaddam was accompanied on this visit by General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces.

During the meeting, the two sides completed discussion that began in Damascus on means for implementing the national accord document, and for reinforcing the march of peace and security in Lebanon.

During the visit, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam congratulated the Lebanese Government once again on the great achievement of ending the rebellion in East Beirut.

Press Criticizes French 'Duplicity' Over 'Awn

JN2010104890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Legitimate Government Is More Concerned About Lebanon", the newspaper TISHRIN says: We do not believe that anyone is more concerned about the security and safety of the Lebanese than their legitimate government. This government showed extreme patience toward the rebellion; it left no avenue unexplored, and gave repeated opportunities to all Arab and international mediation efforts. The national reconciliation government persisted in its efforts, proceeding from concern for the unity of the people and the country in an atmosphere of affinity, cooperation, and brotherhood.

But when things exacerbated and citizens became threatened in their livelihood and future, the legitimate authority had no choice but to assume an independent role and prove its presence as a national and historical leadership that rejects the continuation of the rebellion and the conspiracy of partition. It found itself obliged to take decisive action and end the bizarre situation in east Beirut by force.

TISHRIN adds: Had 'Awn responded to the call of the homeland and the voice of reason, he would have spared the lives of thousands of Lebanese victims, who fell in the course of his alleged wars. And those who are now crying for 'Awn should have cried for the thousands of victims and for the huge destruction 'Awn inflicted throughout the country. The paper adds: Lebanon has now overcome the conspiracy of partition: The country is united; the people have met after long suffering; all crossing points have been opened; and citizens are enjoying security and stability. The legitimate government is preparing to dissolve the militias, regain ports and facilities, and entrench the unity of the army.

TISHRIN concludes: Lebanon is recovering, and its citizens realize full well that they have no future except through accord, cooperation, brotherhood, and rallying behind the legitimate government. The next days will witness further positive developments in favor of reconciliation, the authority of the state, and the restoration by Lebanon of its distinguished Arab role.

Under the headline "The Downfall of the Rebel and the Duplicity of the French Position", AL-THAWRAH says: The French position after the downfall of 'Awn had a unique taste. It implicitly showed regret for 'Awn and explicitly tried to protect him by granting him political asylum. The French position went far in its false allegations against the legitimate Lebanese government through a campaign of slander involving much encroachment upon the Lebanese Government over an internal affair.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Is it not strange and questionable that France should have such links with 'Awn, and that it risks losing its relations with the legitimate authority represented by President al-Hirawi and the al-Huss government for the protection of 'Awn and the prevention of his trial and punishment for all the crimes he perpetrated against all the Lebanese? How can we reconcile the fact that France is using its entire diplomatic and media machine to protect 'Awn, considering this an issue of honor, with the fact that it remained silent when 'Awn killed hundreds of innocent Lebanese by indiscriminate shelling? Does this mean that if France had removed its protection from 'Awn he would not have continued his challenge to the legitimacy? And is France not concerned about the legitimate government extending its authority and control over all Lebanese territory and punishing those who harmed Lebanon's people and unity most? Or are words one thing and actions something else? This is the tragedy of the duplicity of the French position. But this duplicity has been abandoned, and France has declared its support for the rebel and opportunist without caring for the results, as it would seem.

Afghanistan

Khaliqyar Talks With Soviet Journalists

LD2310221890 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 23 Oct 90

[News conference by Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaliqyar with unidentified Soviet correspondents in Kabul on 23 October; correspondents' questions in Russian with superimposed Dari translation—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Khaliqyar] Esteemed journalists, above all I welcome the arrival of you journalists from neighboring USSR in Afghanistan. I hope that your stay in our country is full of happiness and pleasure. [passage omitted] I am now ready to reply your questions.

[Reporter in Dari] Thank you for your talk. I would like to ask a question about your health and medical condition. How is your medical condition at the present?

[Khaliqyar] My medical condition is good at the present. I can work normally and I am performing my duties satisfactorily, as you can see for yourselves.

[Reporter] Esteemed Khaliqyar, could you specifically and briefly talk about the first activities of your government and about the results.

[Khaliqyar] The first measures taken by our government, to which we have committed ourselves in our action program before the esteemed delegates of the people in the Wolasi Jerga [People's Assembly], were the extension of democracy, genuine service for the people, reduction of the distance between the people and state, respect for the wishes and views of the people, meeting of the people's immediate needs, removal of bureaucracy and unnecessary paper work, acceleration of work, explanation of truth to the people, earnest service to the people, and direct contact with the people. We can point to these as the main tasks that we have so far carried out. The results are the people's satisfaction, the reduced distance between people and state, and the proximity of peace. These facts were reflected in my report presented to the esteemed delegates in the Wolasi Jerga.

[Reporter] Esteemed prime minister, some 10 months ago, that is, last February [as heard] I met you in Herat by the light of a kerosene lamp. At that time you mentioned some interesting points on the prospects of the future development of Soviet-Afghan cooperation. But rocket and machine gun fire prevent the actual implementation of this task. If we ignore the economy and other issues, how do you view the strength of the national reconciliation policy from the viewpoint of the human factor?

[Khaliqyar] Afghan-Soviet cooperation and friendly relations are excellent. With the passing of each day these relations continue to develop. Still I can see a good prospects with the developments and changes taking place in the Soviet Union from the viewpoint of [word indistinct], market economy, and from the viewpoint that our country is on the threshold of peace. We want to embark on reconstruction. We can have new areas of economic and cultural cooperation. The national reconciliation policy, as the only alternative, has achieved good and productive results in our country. The people's acceptance of this policy on a large scale, people coming to the side of peace, solidarity, unity, and fraternity instead of fighting, hostility, and fratricide, are all the results of this policy.

Amendments to the Constitution for the people's greater participation in economic, administrative and political spheres and also the formation of the present government in its present composition are the achievement of the national reconciliation policy. Not only does it enjoy national support but it also enjoys international support. We hope that the final result of the national reconciliation policy will be real peace.

[Reporter] The Soviet Union POW's who are in the hands of (?Afghan mujahidin) are the cause of concern to our country's public. We have not yet been able to find a solution for this problem and its practical [word indistinct]. Esteemed Khaliqyar, I would like to know what steps have been taken by your government to resolve the problem of the release of the USSR POWs, and what measures will be taken in the future?

[Khaliqyar] Because of Afghans' nature and the longstanding friendship between the peoples of the two countries I reassure you that every Afghan from our president to the lowest state official and the people are making efforts to help in the release. You know that as a result of these efforts as many as eight POW's have been released and about another 56 POW's are in the hands of the opposition brothers inside the country and a number of them are with our opposition brothers outside the country. Efforts in this respect are made with all seriousness. This issue is included in all our talks with the opposition and also in the contacts through the elders with them.

[Reporter] American writers who publish their articles in the (?Modern Time) journal believe that Najibullah's regime will not last for more than another year. What is your view in this respect?

[Khaliqyar] American commentators have made such predictions before but their predictions have proved wrong. This is a national issue. It depends on us; it depends on Afghans. We expect Western and all other foreign countries experts to help in politically resolving the Afghan problem. Those predictions are all totally unfounded and meaningless.

[Reporter] What impact will the Gulf crisis have on the political solution of the Afghan problem?

[Khaliqyar] The Gulf crisis is really an odd regional and world issue. Issues that threaten peace and security in the region and the world naturally have priority in the solution of world problems. Yet the issue of the political solution of the Afghan problem is receiving the attention of the United Nations and all countries.

[Reporter] Soviet journalists feel that a section of Afghanistan is under one side's control and another section is controlled by the other side, and none of the parties can achieve victory over the other. Will such a situation continue for many years?

[Khaliqyar] We Afghans are at a stage when we think only about peace. We are not seeking victory over one another. Instead of using our forces for war and victory we use them to put an end to war and to restore peace.

[Radio Moscow Reporter] How do you view the present state of economic and trade relations between Afghanistan and the USSR and their expansion in the future?

[Khaliqyar] the two countries' economic relations have broad dimensions. Right now Soviet experts are carrying out a study on the resumption of natural gas supplies to the Soviet Union and are helping us. Also they (?help) us at the Naghlu and Sarowbi hydroelectric stations and in other areas. By the same token the Soviet Union renders vast assistance to us in the provision of primary goods. A new style of cooperation, greatly welcomed by our people, has now started, that is direct cooperation with a new method. Soviet trade and economic firms work jointly with our private entrepreneurs and set up joint production and service firms in the two countries. New cooperation protocols have been signed between Badakhshan and Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic and between Faryab, Jowzjan, Samangan and Balkh Provinces and Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, and a number of them are under consideration. A conference will be held in the near future which will be attended by the representatives of the Governments of the USSR and Afghanistan and the representatives of the republics and the people of the provinces sharing the border with them. In the conference wide talks will be conducted on the framework of such cooperation. This is the kind of assistance that is very effective and useful and is welcomed by our people, especially our national entrepreneurs and national businessmen. Stores of Afghan products will be opened in Moscow and other cities of the Soviet Union, and in return Soviet products stores will be opened in our country's cities. The establishment of a number of finance firms such as banks and also production firms are also under consideration. This cooperation has practically started in Badakhshan Province.

[Reporter] Doesn't the formation of the new government with a majority of nonparty individuals mean dumping the April Revolution ideology in the interest of a pragmatist one?

[Khaliqyar] The formation of the new government is a national unity government. It is a government which has chosen from all other ideas those of peace, the salvation of the country, the prosperity of the people. The Homeland Party has itself abandoned the idea of the monpoly of power. There are some other political parties in the country. In the present government Afghans are and will be placed with regard for their competence and merit and the intention to serve the people regardless of party membership or not. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Gives Awards to Khowst Tribal Chiefs

LD2310202190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Excerpt] The press office of the presidency reports that this afternoon esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received esteemed Malik Shrin, esteemed Azizollah Jan, and esteemed 'Ali Mohammad, three chiefs of the Esma'el Khel tribe, Khowst Province, at the presidency headquarters.

At this meeting, esteemed Najibullah praised their active role in the defense of Khowst and he announced the decree granting the rank of major general to esteemed Malik Shrin which was approved earlier; and the medal of honor to esteemed Azizollah Jan, and the medal of the restoration of the country's independence to esteemed 'Ali Mohammad. [passage omitted]

'Extremists' Captured, Killed Near Qal'eh-ye Now

LD2310164390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] As a result of a combat operation of the armed forces units northeast of Qal'eh-ye Now eight extremists have been captured. The military section of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports: As a result of the combat operations 33 extremists were killed and a number of others were injured; and one mortar, one DShK, 131 other brands of weapons, 50 antipersonnel mines, 20 antivehicle mines, 20 boxes of ZK1 ammunition, 200 mortar shells, 14 shells for recoilless guns, two food depots, and 22 [words indistinct] were captured by the armed forces units from the extremists. The report says 10 fortified positions of the extremists were destroyed along with two heavy weapons, and 10 villages were cleared of their existence.

Rebel Infiltrators Arrested in Jalalabad

LD2310202990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Two men attached to the extremist groups were arrested yesterday in Jalalabad city by the organs of the Ministry of State Security.

The military section of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reported that these men who were armed with four pistols, were attempting to perpetrate terrorist actions in Jalalabad city, but were arrested before carrying out their evil plans by the cooperation of the people and were handed over to the clutches of the law.

India

Singh Says Basic Principles 'in Question'

Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1610 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that the issues concerning the withdrawal of support by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] to the National Front Government will be put before parliament as very basic principles are in question. He was making a statement to Doordarshan [television] correspondent Prabhat Jabral this evening:

[Begin Singh recording] It is not a question of the government, but of principles. It is the question whether the Constitution, the judiciary and secularism will be upheld or not, and it is time that all those who uphold these values to come together. Whether they be in the political field or in the social field, they have to decide if we have to run this country with love and affection, or by force and hatred. It is the time of decision for all for us, and I want to thank intellectuals, writers and artists who yesterday expressed themselves, [words indistinct] to express the words and the feelings of the country, of the common men. And, this is what we all should respect. At this moment, and it is a very tense moment, my heart goes out to the innocent children, men, and women who today are under tension and fear. I appeal to all my countrymen at this hour one should protect the other like two brothers to each other.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has withdrawn support from the National Front Government. But so far issues are concerned, they have to be put before the parliament so the country is witness as to who is on which side because very basic principles are under question—the very principles on which this country's edifice is built and the question really is not of the government but of the unity of the country and everyone will have to search his heart and take a decision very clearly, openly, and in the highest forum of the country. [end recording]

Later, talking to newsmen informally, Mr. V.P. Singh said he has not received any official communication from the president. He said Mr. Venkataraman has, however, told him that he will be seeking legal opinion over the developments.

Janata Dal Chief Sees No Threat to Government

BK2310125790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that issues concerning the withdrawal of support by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] from the National Front Government will be put before parliament, as very basic principles are in question. In a statement to All India Radio and Doordarshan, he said the country should witness as to who is standing on which side. The prime minister said that it is not the question of government, but whether the Constitution, judiciary, and secularism will be upheld or not. He said the time has come for all those who uphold these values to come together, whether they are in political or in social fields.

The Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, has said that there is no threat to the National Front Government following the withdrawal of support by the BJP, and the government will continue. Addressing a crowded press conference in New Delhi this evening, he said the president had invited the National Front to form the government as it was the single largest group in parliament, and not on the basis of the support of the BJP or left parties.

Janata Dal Dissidents Call on Singh To Resign

BK2410013290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1836 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 23 (AFP)—Dissidents in India's ruling party opened up a new front against Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh Tuesday by calling for his immediate resignation as the government teetered on the edge of collapse.

"We are persistent about changing the leadership and we are in touch with a number of party MP's [members of parliament]. Their response is positive," said Yashwant Sinha, who is leading an anti-V.P. Singh campaign within the Janata Dal (People's Party). Mr. Sinha, a former civil service officer, told reporters that the dissidents had not yet decided on a strategy. But he said they wanted Mr. V.P. Singh's immediate resignation.

The prime minister should have resigned as soon as the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) withdrew its support to the government Tuesday, he said. At a meeting with reporters, three dissident leaders including Mr. Sinha accused Mr. V.P. Singh of mishandling the issue that caused the BJP to withdraw support—a bitter Hindu-Moslem dispute over the ownership of a religious site.

"We are extremely sorry that the government has brought the country to such a sorry situation," they said in a joint statement. The three were among the 29 Janata Dal MP's who had demanded Mr. V.P. Singh's resignation last month charging him with "total failure" in running the nation.

Congress-I Demands 'Necessary Action' by President

BK2310174690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The Congress-I has demanded necessary action by the president in view of the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, losing what it called moral, legal, and constitutional right to continue in office. An eight-member delegation of the party, led by the former external affairs minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, called on the president tonight and submitted him a memorandum.

Says Singh Lacks Authority

BK2310171090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] In a day of hectic developments, political parties geared up consultations. The leaders of the Left parties met the prime minister and extended their full support to the stand by the government in stopping the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] rath yatra [chariot journey]. They said many political parties, including the Congress-I, have been demanding such action and now they should support the government.

The Congress-I, however, said in its immediate reaction that Mr. V.P. Singh has no moral, legal, and constitutional authority to continue as prime minister.

The Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, countered the apprehension about the National Front ministry and said there is no threat to the National Front government. The government will continue. He even said that there is no abnormal situation to justify a special system of parliament.

The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi issued a statement appealing to the people to remain united and maintain peace and communal harmony in this hour of crisis. He said challenges are great, but with unity and harmony we shall overcome them.

Later, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, described the BJP and its president, Mr. L.K. Advani, as the greatest threat to the unity and integrity of the country. When asked to comment on the arrest of Mr. Gadgil said Congress-I all along has held the view that the rath yatra [chariot journey] should stop and any step taken by any government to stop it is welcomed.

Singh Proposes Testing House Majority

BK2410083790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has suggested convening a session of the Lok Sabha in the first week of next month to prove a majority of his government on the floor of the house. The prime minister called on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] this morning and made the suggestion. Mr. Singh told waiting newsmen that the president seems to be agreeable to this view that the Lok Sabha session be called within a week after the 30th of this month. Mr. Singh said that it is not possible to convene the session earlier as the center and the state governments are busy on the law and order front in view of the announced schedule by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] for the commencement of the construction of the Ayodhya temple [at the Hindu-Muslim dispute shrine site].

Mr. V.P. Singh said that the National Front and the Janata Dal leaders had a meeting this morning and favored early summoning of the Lok Sabha. Our correspondent reports that those who called on the prime minister included the Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, and the former deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal.

Mr. V.P. Singh has again said that he has no intention of sticking to the chair. He said that the National Front government came to power on certain principles like secularism and to uphold the Constitution and the rule by law. These issues should be put before the highest forum of the country so that people know which party is on which side. Mr. Singh said had he wanted to cling to power, he would have made a compromise with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] on the temple issue.

President Agrees to Proposal

BK2410071690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Oct 24 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh said Wednesday that the president had accepted his request to test his majority in parliament, a day after losing the legislative backing of a key political ally. Mr. V.P. Singh told journalists that he had suggested to President Ramaswamy Venkataraman that parliament be convened for an emergency session "within a week after October 30."

"The president is agreeable to this," he announced after an unscheduled 20-minute meeting with Mr. Venkataraman. There was no immediate confirmation by the presidential palace. [passage omitted]

Parliament To Test Ruling Party's Majority

BK2410125690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The president has advised the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, to prove his majority in the Lok Sabha, and the prime minister has agreed to do so on or before the seventh of next month. This was stated in a Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] communique issued in New Delhi this evening. The communique says that Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee submitted a letter to the President on behalf of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in parliament stating that their party has withdrawn support to the V.P. Singh government.

The communique said the National Front has a strength of 146 members, the BJP 86 and the Left Front 52 members in the house. Thus, the withdrawal of BJP support will deprive the National Front Government of a majority of the membership of the Lok Sabha. However, under the parliamentary system, the Council of Ministers should have a majority of members present and voting in the house and not a majority of the total membership of the house, the communique added.

Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha has been convened on the seventh of next month. This follows the recommendations of the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary

Affairs. Earlier, the prime minister called on the president at Rashtrapati Bhavan and discussed the date of summoning the Lok Sabha for proving his majority in the house.

President Begins Consultations on Situation

BK2410022290 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] President R. Venkataraman has begun consultations with legal and constitutional experts on the political situation arising from the withdrawal of support by the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] for the National Front government. In this connection, the president held consultations with the Attorney General Sohni Sohrabji yesterday.

An eight-member Congress-I delegation led by P.V. Narasimha Rao called on the president last night and submitted a memorandum to him saying that V.P. Singh has no moral or constitutional right to continue as the prime minister. The Congress-I appealed to the president to take the necessary action in this regard. The party expressed its opinion that in the past 11 months, the V.P. Singh government has brought the country to the verge of serious calamity as the situation has remained very complex.

The party spokesman V.N. Gadgil told All India Radio correspondent that the party has so far not contemplated any action. It depends upon the president on what suitable action he would take in this regard. Gadgil said a meeting of All India Congress-I office-bearers and the party's political affairs committee headed by Rajiv Gandhi last evening has decided to send a delegation to the president to apprise him of the party's views. He said as the BJP, the main party supporting the government, has withdrawn its support, V.P. Singh does not have any right to continue in office.

Further Reaction to Government Arrest of Advani

BK2410043590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The Citizens for Democracy has welcomed the arrest of [the BJP president] Mr. L.K. Advani and said it was necessary to safeguard the sanctity of the rule of law and the secular foundations of the country. In a press release, its general secretary, Mr. M.D. Pancholi, appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony and not to be misled by vested interests whose actions constitute a serious threat to the unity of the country.

Four intellectuals have appreciated the government for its firm decision to stop the rath yatra [chariot journey]. In a joint statement, they said India's secular and democratic credentials have been under strain by the attempts of mixing the political ambition with religious ambition. The signatories to the statement are: Nikhil Chakravarty, Professor Rajni Kothari, Dr. George Mathew and O.V. Vijayan.

The National Front of Trade Unions have also welcomed the arrest of Mr. Advani. The RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh] chief, Mr. Balasar Deoras, has condemned the arrest of the BJP chief. In a statement in Nagpur, he said there was no communal tension anywhere on account of the rath yatra and so the arrest of Mr. Advani was unjustified and undemocratic.

The transport minister and the Congress-S leader, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, has said that it is the priviledge of the BJP to withdraw its support to the National Front government. Reacting to the BJP's withdrawal Mr. Unnikrishnan said in Calcutta that the whole issue will be decided on the floor of the house. The textiles minister, Mr. Sharad Yadav, has described the arrest of Mr. Advani as a timely move for strengthening the national unity, integrity, and communal harmony.

National Front Chief Optimistic on Resolution

BK2410094190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, has said that efforts so far to solve the present political crisis have been fruitful. Mr. Rama Rao, who is convalescing at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in Delhi, told our correspondent this morning that a small issue should not be allowed to break the unity and integrity of the nation. He appealed to the people to preserve national integrity and harmony at this crucial juncture.

Tension, Violence Reported After Advani Arrest

Police Fire on Rioters

BK2310120690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Prohibitory orders under Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more persons] have been clamped in Ranchi town in the wake of tension following the arrest of Mr. L.K. Advani. Official sources told our Ranchi correspondent that schools and colleges have been closed until further orders. All shops have been closed down and vehicular traffic is off the road.

In Gujarat, one person was killed and five injured in a stabbing incident following outbreak of violence in Ahmedabad city this afternoon in the wake of the arrest of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. Advani. Police fired six rounds and burst tear gas shells to disperse the mob indulging in stone throwing. An indefinite curfew has been imposed in areas under Kalupur and Daryapur police stations in the city.

BJP Calls Nationwide Strike

BK2310125690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has given a call for bharat bundh [nationwide strike] tomorrow to protest against the arrest of Mr. Advani. The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, has reiterated his government's resolve to take stern action against those who were trying to disrupt normal life. In Kerala, the ruling Left Democratic Front has urged the people to reject the strike call given by the BJP. Maharashtra Chief Minister Sharad Pawar has appealed to the people in the state to cooperate with the government in maintaining communal and religious amity.

Violence Seen Throughout Country

BK2310170990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] There have been tension and incidents of violence in many parts of the country following the arrest of Mr. L.K. Advani. According to reports reaching New Delhi, four persons were killed in stabbing incidents in Ahmedabad in Gujarat and nine others injured. In Uttar Pradesh, some incidents of violence have been reported from Agra and Jhansi. Bundh [strike] was observed in several towns including Gorakhpur, Lucknow, and Faizabad. A red alert has been sounded all over the state. Security forces staged a flag march today also in some towns.

In Bihar, bundh was observed in Samastipur and some other towns. In Ranchi, prohibitory orders under Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more persons] have been clamped and schools and colleges have been closed until further orders. In Madhya Pradesh, markets and business establishments remained closed today in Bhopal, Indore, Sagar, and some other towns. In Rajasthan also, markets remained closed in Jaipur and some other cities. BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] supporters blocked traffic at some points in Bombay city and a bundh was observed in Thane.

In Calcutta, nine persons were injured when the police used force to remove road blockades in some parts of the city. Some incidents of stone pelting have also been reported from Hyderabad. In the Jammu region, shops remained closed in most areas and bundh was observed in Jammu and Udhampur. The BJP has given a call for Bharat [India] bundh tomorrow to protest against the arrest of Mr. Advani.

Security Tightened

BK2410035990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] In Gujarat, five persons were killed and 20 injured in stabbing incidents and police firing in Ahmedabad and Wadodra during the last 24 hours, following the arrest of Mr. L.K. Advani. One person was killed in police firing in Wadodra, while four others were stabbed to death in Ahmedabad yesterday. An indefinite curfew has been imposed in Diga town of Banaskantha District, while indefinite curfew continues in Kalupur and Daryapur police station areas of Ahmedabad.

Elaborate security measures have been taken by several states and union territories in view of the Bharat Bundh [countrywide-strike] call given by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] today in protest against the arrest of the party's chief, Mr. L.K. Advani. In the capital, security arrangements have been tightened. The Delhi Transport Corporation has decided to keep its entire fleet of buses off the road today.

In Uttar Pradesh, a red alert has been sounded all over the state. The district magistrate and the police have been instructed to keep a close and constant watch over the activities of antisocial elements.

The Bihar government has stepped up security measures. Probitory orders have been promulgated throughout the state. About 790 BJP workers have been rounded up as a precautionary measure. Paramilitary forces have been deployed in all the sensitive districts. In Ranchi, all schools and colleges have been closed till further orders. Vehicular traffic is off the road.

The West Bengal chief minister has appealed to the people to exercise utmost restraint and extend their cooperation in maintaining law and order and amity. In Madhya Pradesh, special armed forces jawans [soldiers] have been posted at strategic points in Bhopal.

The Kerala chief minister said that the government will deal sternly with any attempt to break law and order during the bundh [strike]. A number of persons belonging to RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh], BJP, and DMF, and Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] have been taken into preventive custody as a precautionary measure in Kerala. Vehicular in many places is off the road. In Maharashtra, road and railway traffic is not affected due to the bundh [strike] call. In Bombay, suburban train traffic is running as usual. Buses are running on some selected routes.

Strike Evokes 'Mixed' Response

BK2410092490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] The Bharat-bundh [India-wide Strike] call given by the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] today has evoked a mixed response. The call was given to protest against the arrest of Mr. Advani. In Delhi, shops and business establishments in main markets are closed. However, hotels, chemist shops, and tea stalls are open. Government offices and banks are functioning normally. Vehicular traffic has been partially affected.

In Jammu and Kashmir, most of the shops and business establishments are closed in Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua, and some other towns. In Himachal Pradesh, a near total bundh has been reported. However, essential services such as supplies of water and electricity are being maintained.

In Uttar Pradesh, the bundh has evoked little response. Reports reaching Lucknow say all government offices, banks, and major business establishments are functioning as usual. Vehicular traffic is normal. In Bihar, shops and business establishments are closed in the main markets of Patna and Ranchi. Public transport is off the road in Ranchi. Schools and colleges are closed in the state on account of Chhath Pooja [Hindu festival].

In Gujarat, the bundh in some parts of the state is near total, while in some others it has evoked no response. In Haryana, most shops and industrial and commercial establishments are closed. In Punjab, rail and road traffic is normal.

Curfew Imposed After Five Killed

BK2410100690 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0930 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] In Jaipur, five persons were killed and more than forty injured in police firing in incidents of violence and arson in the walled city during the Bharat-bundh [India-wide strike] today. The district administration has already imposed an indefinite curfew in the walled city in the forenoon. Twenty-five of the injured were stated to be in serious condition, according to hospital sources. An official spokesman told PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] that the situation in old Jaipur city was tense but under control.

In Ahmedabad, indefinite curfew was imposed in some areas, including the areas of Bapunagar and Gomatipur police stations following incidents of arson and stone-throwing. Indefinite curfew has also been imposed in Palanpur town of North Gujrat from 1000 this morning following some violent incidents.

Violence Spreads; Army Called

BK2410131190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] In Rajasthan, the army was called out in Jaipur city to help the civil authorities in maintaining law and order following incidents of arson, looting, and stabbing which claimed five lives. Indefinite curfew has been imposed in the city. According to agency reports, the army has also been called out in Jodhpur and Devad in Ajmer District.

In Karnataka, four persons were killed in violence and police firing. In Andhra Pradesh, two persons were killed in violent incidents at Shankerappali and Rangareddy.

15 Killed in Punjab, Including 'Terrorists'

BK2410094690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] In Punjab, 15 persons, including five terrorists and five security force personnel were killed in separate incidents last night. According to an official spokesman, five terrorists and two security force personnel were killed and four security personnel were injured in an encounter in Khemkaran sector of Amritsar District. A large quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered from the terrorists. In Patiala, terrorists struck near the Nabha Gate and shot dead five persons, including an ASI [assistant subinspector]. Terrorists also shot dead two persons in Amritsar District, including one police constable and one person in Gurdaspur District in separate incidents.

Iran

Khamene'i Calls For Arming Palestine 'Strugglers'

LD2410123890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpt] In a meeting this morning with various strata of the people, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution and the guardian of the cause of the Muslims, in remarking on the Islamic struggles of the risen Palestinian nation, invited the Muslim and freedom-loving governments and nations of the world to arm the Palestinian strugglers with weapons, materiel, and propaganda. He emphasized that an all-embracing support for the Islamic uprising of Palestine is the religious and final duty of all Muslims.

The honorable leader believes that the issue of Palestine and the liberation of the honorable Jerusalem is among the principal issues of the government and the nation of Iran. He added: Zionism is the enemy of Islam and the usurper of the rights of the Muslims. The Islamic ummah must diligently and intelligently endeavor to perform its duty against the treacherous and cunning Zionists, who have held sway on part of the territories of the Muslims. If the heads of the Islamic countries and the Muslim nations were on guard, then America would never have been able in any way to save Israel. The enemy is not all that powerful; rather, the Muslims are ignorant of their own strength.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i cast a question mark on the silence of the supposedly humanist organizations—claiming to be champions of human rights—against the crimes of the regime occupying Jerusalem, as well as on the cowardice of the authorities and politicians of the Islamic countries in front of America and Israel; he expressed disgust for such a stance. Praising the courage of a Palestinian youth in killing Zionists, he said: Any nation which is capable of defending its own rights will never be humiliated and wronged. Today the Muslims in Palestine have awakened and risen up. Were it not for the pressure emanating from the dogged resistance of the faithful and courageous Palestinian youth, the Zionists would now have occupied half of Lebanon by sensationalizing the Persian Gulf issue. Israel is not afraid of UN resolutions; she will not withdraw because of such resultions. The usurper Zionist regime understands only the language of power. Only through power, weapons, and a clenched fist can we force her to retreat.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said that the anger of the Zionists was on account of the mounting Islamic movement inside the occupied territories. Stressing the Islamic nature of the issue of Palestine, he said: The issue of Palestine does not concern the Arabs and the neighboring countries of Palestine only—Muslims in every corner of the world must feel responsible for that important Islamic issue, and help the strugglers who actually fight the aggressor and illegitimate government of Israel from within. The Muslims must equip them with money, weapons, and propaganda. The performance of that duty is incumbent on all the Muslims as a religious obligation, until the definite defeat of Zionism and its supporters.

Elsewhere in his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i discussed the issues raised by political factions inside the country and, referring to the remarks of some Majles deputies from the Majles podium, he graciously said: The Majles is a trench for the defense of the revolution and for resistance to the United States, to counterrevolution and to other enemies of Islam. The haphazard [parakandeh] remarks which were recently heard from some Majles deputies were the words of outsiders, which have always been broadcast from the radios of Israel, the United States and the counterrevolution. Deputies are free in the Majles, and freedom is their right and the right of the nation. However, it is not freedom to speak from the Majles podium against the wishes of the nation in a way similar to a Radio Israel announcer. In an Islamic society, that kind of freedom does not exist for anyone.

The eminent leader added: This nation's revolution is too dear and too valuable to allow a person, on the basis of personal, group, or factional motives, to speak—from a trench which is for the defense of the revolution—against the revolution and the people and to the detriment of the Islamic Republic, or to bring everything under question and provide material for feeding foreign radios. This nation will certainly not allow such a thing.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution warned Majles deputies about the danger of the people becoming separated from the path taken by political factions, and, stressing the fact that Majles deputies are outstanding models in comparison with other countries' parliaments, he graciously said: In no other national parliament in the world are the people's representatives known for the purity, righteousness, popularity, sense of responsibility, and faithfulness of the honorable Islamic Majles. They must maintain these outstanding qualities, and it must not be permitted for a few ignorant, angry, and irresponsible people to put a pure and blessed assembly under question.

He also noted the need for every single person to maintain respect for deputies and for the dignity of the Majles, and he described the Majles as the nation's platform and the highest and most lofty section of the system's legal apparatus. [passage omitted]

Guardians Approve Experts Elections in Some Areas

LD2310170390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] In today's session of the Council of Guardians, the files on the elections of the second term of the Assembly of Experts for the constituencies of Esfahan, East Azerbaijan, and Khuzestan were investigated. The soundness of polling in the said provinces was approved by the Council of Guardians.

Mohtashemi Denounces U.S. Presence in Gulf

NC0710163590 Tehran BAYAN in Persian 23 Aug-22 Sep 90 pp 4, 5

[Editorial by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Tehran Majles deputy: "A Statement to the People"]

[Excerpts] The United States is expanding its domination by daily increasing its direct presence in the region and in the Islamic countries on the pretext of the Iraqi attack on Kuwait and its occupation by that country. Once again the old policy of colonialism, based on the presence of warships on the Third World's shores under the cover of support and guardianship but in reality for access to the Muslims' wealth and abundant resources, is being revived.

Today, the apostate system of the arch-Satan, the United States, has been imposed on the Persian Gulf oil wells. The United States is seeking to expand and consolidate its hold. The United States has come, not merely to gain control of the Persian Gulf's oil resources, but to gain complete political, economic, and cultural sway over the Islamic countries of the Middle East. The United States has come to crush the movements of pure Muhammadan Islam, and to dig its talons into the holy house of God, this pulsating heart of Islam. The United States has come to snuff out in the Muslims' very throats the cries disavowing pagans, and to impart greater depth and firmness to the roots of the cancerous tumor of Israel.

The heads of the Islamic countries have become divided into certain groups since this event. The first group comprises those who have donned the mantle of Islam to mask their apostate nature. These are those of the ilk of Abu-Sufyan [Mu'awiya Ibn-Abu-Sufyan, first Umayyad caliph] who did not believe in the Almighty God, even for a second, who invited the arch-Satan themselves and warmly welcomed the sovereignty of the world's arrogant powers—world apostasy and the world-devouring United States. [passage omitted]

The second group comprises those who are intimidated by the Iraqi regime and also helpless before the powers of the West and the United States and continue to vacillate between the two. The third group consists of those who believe that the real, number one enemy of all nations is the world-devouring United States, that all troubles originate from it, and that they should fight it at all costs. [passage omitted]

Today, the soldiers of the United States and the enemies have forcibly violated the chastity of Islam and entered its precincts and the holy lands of Hejaz. The two holy mosques, holy Mecca, and sacred al-Madinah are under the domination of the Americans' war boots, and a deathly silence prevails over the entire Islamic world.

Of course, our nation has a long-standing record of battle with the traitorous enemy and foreigners in our own country and will never forget it. [passage omitted]

One should ask: How did the United States forget the bitter taste of its defeat in Vietnam, Iran, and Lebanon so quickly? When the U.S. Government's forces entered Lebanon in 1982, it announced very complacently that the conditions of Vietnam did not exist in this country, and thus it managed to deceive its people. It brought its offspring in the garb of Marines to this abattoir. Once again, it is saying that the conditions in the Persian Gulf are different from those in Lebanon.

James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, declared to the Congress: "Part of the U.S. forces will remain in this country even after the end of the Persian Gulf crisis as part of a new regional security system in the Middle East." The United States is laboring under the delusion that it will be the absolute power in the world, and like the Pharaoh, it claims: I am the greatest deity.

In short, the objectives of the U.S. and NATO forces, who have hastily entered the region prior to any confrontation with Iraq, are the following: Clash with the pure Muhammadan Islam; proscription of the export of the revolution; crushing of the Islamic movements and the hajj of Abraham; access to the Muslims' oil wealth; and sway over the world's economy and industry.

The most important of all is a clash with the Islamic Republic of Iran, because the Islamic system is a potential threat to the existence of world arrogance, spearheaded by the criminal United States. In view of the present state of affairs and in light of the immutable and decisive belief of his eminence the imam, we should formulate a serious plan for a categorical and wrathful approach by capitalizing on the general hatred and loathing of the Islamic ummah against the United States and the West, especially in the wake of the direct intervention of the West and, in particular, the United States.

For this it is essential that the propaganda apparatus and the mass media should project the sinister visage of the coercive and disgraceful U.S. forces and should expose their crimes.

A wave of demonstrations should engulf the entire region and Islamic Iran to display abomination and abhorrence. Universities, factories, cities, and villages should show the world their loathing and fury in a massive movement of demonstrations against the foreigners and against the presence of the bloodthirsty forces of the West and the United States. The government should lend its support to this Islamic and national resolve and should provide the necessary facilities for the cells of anti-U.S. mobilization and resistance.

It is natural that the first shot fired by the American soldiers will transform the region into a formidable volcano and will set all the oil wells ablaze. The palaces of the kings, the shaykhs, and the heads of the Persian Gulf region should then become the direct targets of the Islamic ummah's forces, along with the foreign warships. It is natural that the attacks on all the interests of the United States, Israel, Zionism, and their crusading forces all over the world will become the foremost targets for the cells of the Hezbollah and the noble offspring of the imam.

Editorial Condemns Foreign Presence in Gulf

NC0810130390 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
25 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Presence in Saudi Arabia for the Sake of U.S. Interests"]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The presence of foreign usurping and aggressive forces in any Islamic country should ring a warning bell for all Muslims as it is a violation of the sacred Islamic territory.

Islamic liberty and freedom makes such a foreign presence intolerable for Muslims, especially when that presence is aimed at aggression, plunder, and usurpation. Unfortunately, it was the reactionary heads of some Islamic countries themselves who invited the foreign forces to come to Islamic territories.

The fact that aggression took place in one corner of the Persian Gulf resulting in the occupation of a Muslim country is reprehensible. But the fact that the forces of Islamic countries are standing beside the U.S. forces even "symbolically" and are under the U.S. command is even more unacceptable and ugly. If the intention is only to defend Saudi Arabia, could not Islamic countries have deployed their own forces there and have the foreign forces withdraw?

For more than 40 years the Zionists have occupied one of the dearest Islamic territories and the first qiblah of the Muslims [Jerusalem]. Did the Islamic countries that are now shedding tears over Saudi Arabia even once show their "symbolic" readiness and send forces to liberate Jerusalem? The reason for this state of affairs should be sought in the personal interests and greed of some of the heads of countries that have sent their forces to Saudi Arabia to stand beside the American forces as well as in the personal interests and greed of those who want to fulfill America's security plan in the region. Had Kuwait and Saudi Arabia been poor countries without oil, would these countries have sent their forces to confront the occupation of Kuwait and defend Saudi Arabia symbolically?

Edward Gnehm, who was appointed Washington's ambassador to Kuwait, clearly stated that the objective behind the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is to safeguard vital U.S. interests in the region. Do such remarks, as well as a DER SPIEGEL report that France and Germany had been arming Iraq with the deadliest of weapons for a long time, not prove that the reason for the presence of America and its Western allies in the region is not to end the occupation of Kuwait?

Islamic countries can solve their problems only if they rid themselves of foreign diktat and domination and gain credibility by safeguarding their independence and Islamic integrity.

At a meeting with the Syrian president, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, emphasized the need for greater coordination between the two countries. Pointing out that the problems of the Islamic world can be solved through the steadfastness of the Muslims and pious forces, he added that the regional situation has become dangerous because of ignorance and greed.

From the very outset of the crisis in the region, the Islamic Republic of Iran condemned the aggression and occupation of Kuwait at the same time that it expressed its opposition to the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf and thus clarified its principled stand on the situation. The aggression against Kuwait is as reprehensible as the aggressive U.S. presence in the holy Islamic territories. It is only through the consolidation of unity among Islamic nations and the Muslim and revolutionary forces that the culprit can be made to make amends for mistakes. Otherwise, the foreign forces will maintain their presence in the region for the sake of their own interests.

Editorial Views West's Propaganda, 'Confessions'

NC2409165390 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 3 Sep 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Western Propaganda, Altered Stands, and Confessions"]

[Excerpts] The past few weeks have been full of confessions: the West's confessions about their extensive support in all areas for Iraq during its aggression against Iran and on the collusion among the UN Security Council's permanent members in sending military and non-military aid to Baghdad to fight against the Islamic Republic.

At the same time, the past few weeks have also been full of regret and repentence. Arab reaction, against Iran throughout the eight-year war and which did not spare even one moment in flooding the Baghdad regime with dollars, is now expressing regrets and is overtly describing everything it did during the past as a "mistake"; the Saudi interior minister confesses that during Iraq's war against Iran, the Arab world's resources were all at the disposal of Baghdad. [passage omitted]

The change in the West's stand and, following this, of Arab reaction and of their biased propaganda, has not gone unnoticed by informed observers. The world may not have been fully aware that for a decade the West and the East were the mentors of Iraq, but world leaders were. If the West did not allow the Iranian nation's oppressed cry to reach the ears of the world, the world's statesmen were well aware that Iraq started the aggression against Iran with the support of the East and the West.

The people of Iran were also aware of this when the aggression started and from the start of the war until the acceptance of the resolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni and the country's high-ranking officials pointed out that Iran is not defending itself against Iraq but that Iran is at war with arrogance, the East, and the West. In view of all this, the current confessions and propaganda in the West are too suspect to be able to obstruct the process of peace between Iran and Iraq.

Habibi Receives Message From Germany's Kohl

LD0610125590 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 6, IRNA—Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl's message to First Vice-President Hasan Habibi was submitted by German Ambassador to Tehran Armin Freitag in a meeting here Saturday [6 October]. Freitag expressed hope that unification of the two Germanys will bring about further expansion and deepening of relations between the two countries.

Habibi congratulated the German nation and government on unification of the two Germanys and hoped that traditional friendly ties between Iran and Germany will be further upgraded in political, economic and cultural domains.

Omani Agriculture Minister Departs After Visit

NC2310063990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The Omani minister for agriculture and fisheries, who had come to Iran at the head of a five-member delegation, left Tehran last night. According to our correspondent, during the course of his three-day stay he held talks with Mr. Habibi, the first vice president; Mr. Kalantari, minister of agriculture; and Mr. Foruzesh, the construction jihad minister. According to the Omani minister for agriculture and fisheries, during the talks it was decided that both countries should have mutual economic cooperation in the fields of agriculture and fisheries, especially in developing seeds, spraying pesticides, modernizing agricultural machinery, and exchanging know-how and experts.

Editorial Accuses Government of Hiding Facts

PM1210090490 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 26 Sep 90 p 8

[Editorial: "We Hear Local News From Foreign Press!"]

[Text] When Iranians hear for the first time about something that has occurred in their own country, from a foreign news source, will they not become indifferent toward their own mass media?

An American citizen in Iran is freed from prison after having completed his jail sentence. He leaves Tehran for the United States on Friday 14 September. Not only us, but no other Iranian newspaper or the Iranian public find out about this until a German news agency reports: "Iran has freed an American businessman who had been in an Iranian prison since September 1984 on charges of foreign currency violations." It was then that the Iranian press and people found out that there had been an

American who was released from jail. Does this issue not raise questions? How was this American freed that the Iranian mass media did not find out about it and the radio and television did not say anything?

This is not the first time we have heard about things that have occurred in our own country from the mouths of the foreign mass media, and, if this trend continues, it will certainly not be the last time either—unless the officials find out about the consequences of such actions.

Please pay attention to the item of news as quoted by the German news agency: "Iran has freed an American businessman who had been in an Iranian prison since September 1984 on charges of foreign currency violations. The U.S. State Department announcing this on Friday 14 September, added: The prisoner named Derwin David Rabhan [name as transliterated] seems to have spent his entire jail sentence in one prison in Iran. He left Tehran bound for the United States on Friday 14 September. Government officials said they see no ground for improvement of ties between Iran and the United States as a result of this prisoner being set free."

It is proper for the judicial authorities to pay attention to this piece of news one more time. They should know that not letting the Iranian press and people find out about such news means that the foreign media are free to interpret and convey the news any way they want.

Was this person a businessman—as the German news agency says? Was his crime—which the German news agency lowered by one degree, calling it an "accusation"—simply currency violations for which he spent more than 5 years in jail?

At the end of the item there is a paragraph and it is not clear if the German news agency means Iranian officials or American government officials. If they are talking about American officials, what it means is that judicial authorities freed the prisoner because they wanted to see better ties with the United States, but that Washington has rejected this. If they mean Iraninan officials, then the question still remains as to why the internal news media were not informed.

The gentlemen should know how damaging it can be if items of news such as this are not broadcast. Along the same lines we hear about the Iraqi foreign ministers's trip to Iran from Reuters. Is this not interesting? Do they think Iran's mass media do not have access to foreign news sources?

The Iraqi foreign minister's trip, following the acceptance of all of Iran's demands, is an important item of news. The people who braved through 8 years of holy defense, putting behind them all that hardship, have the right to hear about the foreign minister's trip from their own mass media, before his actual arrival and before the announcement by the foreign media. People are sensitive about such items of news which affect their own and their country's future. Why should they have to hear of them through the foreign mass media, when the local press have no idea at all?

The organization that prepared for Tariq 'Aziz' trip should inform the people and should give them details through the local mass media. If the mass media fails in its job as a communications' link between officials and the people, it will mosty definitely not be effective as a mouthpiece for the people or the officials. It is very strange that local news is broadcast by foreign media.

Khamene'i Addresses Medical School Deans

LD2310192190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Addressing the deans of the country's medical schools, His Eminence Ayatollah Khemene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, emphasized the need to safeguard Islam at the university level. He also said that the development of the Hezbollahi forces must be enhanced.

During the meeting, which Minister of Health, Treatment, and Higher Education [title as heard] Iraj Fazel also attended, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i also stressed the importance of science. He then said: In the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, university professors believe deeply that the country's scientific progress is placed at the service of the people and that today the foundation of work in Islamic Iran is sound and clean. Therefore, university professors and authorities must guard Islam to the best of their ability; the trend of work must be such that foreigners may not infer that Islam and the revolution dominate university and scientific affairs.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said that a Hezbollahi is a person who devotes himself to the implementation of God's instructions and to the attainment of the objectives of Islam and the revolution. [passage omitted]

Anyone who works for the revolution and the nation and who does not think of himself while thinking of serving Islam, the revolution, and the country is a hezbollahi; therefore, efforts must be directed toward developing and strengthening the country's hezbollahi wing, especially in the universities. The leader of the Islamic revolution said that the [nature of] the chancellorship of universities must be scientific. He then reminded everyone of the need to combine science with action and faith. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i believes that it is possible for those who do not believe in Islam and the revolution to teach at the universities provided they demonstrate their knowledge in their fields. He then said that such persons should not be given any opportunities to be active in the areas of university management and society. [passage omitted]

At the end of this remarks His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i expressed hope that the problems of the universities, especially the shortage of educational space, would be solved. He also stressed the need to cut back on nonessential goods. [passage omitted]

Khorasani Appointed AIIU Secretary-General

LD1110151690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution and the guardian of the cause [vali-ye amr] of the Muslims, issued an order today, graciously appointing Mr. Hajj Sheykh Mohammad Va'ez-Zadeh Khorasani as the secretary general of the Assembly for Inter-Islamic Understanding [AIIU] [Majma'-e Taqrib Beyn Mazaheb-e Eslami]. The text of the order issued by the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution reads as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God the lord of the worlds. Peace and salutations be upon our prophet and master, Mohammad, and his scion. Your excellency Hajj Sheyk Mohammad Va'ez-Zadeh Khorasani, learned professor and valued scholar, may you have a long life! Now that the preliminary steps have been taken to set up the AIIU—praise be to God—and fresh hopes are created in this field, thanks to the extensive welcome given by the Islamic 'ulema and scholars in every corner of the Islamic world to the idea of bringing various Muslim sects closer, I appoint your excellency as the secretary general of this assembly.

In view of your high status in Islamic science, your long record of hard work and endeavor to bring together the brothers of Islamic sects, it is hoped that you will not abandon your whole-hearted search for diverse scientific and cultural fields, and will wisely continue and persevere with the movement toward realization of the predetermined objectives of this assembly.

The expected response of those who are determined to divide Muslims makes it necessary to be aware of the importance and significance of these lofty objectives with Almighty succor; and you should not refrain from undertaking any struggle. I beseech Almighty God to grant you success. God is our assistant. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed 'Ali al-Hoseyni al-Khamene'i
[Dated] 11 October 1990

Representative Appointed for Palestine Committee

LD2310171690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] In a decree, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani appointed Mr. Ata'ollah Mohajerani as the presidential representative in the [Majles] Committee for the Support of the Islamic Revolution of the Palestinian People.

Part of the decree states: To follow and coordinate the implementation of the Support of the Islamic Revolution for the Palestinian People Law approved on 9 May of the current year by the Islamic Consultative Majlis, and according to Article 5 of the said law, I appoint you as the presidential representative.

*New Appointments Announced

5 Sep 90 Appointments

90AS0051A Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 5 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] In a decree by President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Dr. 'Ali Shams-Ardekani was appointed deputy minister of economic and international affairs of the Ministry of Mines and Metals and will continue his position as head of the Free Port of Qeshm.

In a decree by Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president and head of the Plan and Budget Organization, Engineer Mostafa Amin Mirza Mohammadi was appointed the director of industries of this organization.

Upon the suggestion of the chief of police of the Islamic Republic and the approval of the minister of interior, the new heads of police, traffic, and driving affairs were appointed.

The public relations office announced the following appointments:

- Brigadier General Qana'ati, deputy police chief of the Islamic Republic.
- Lieutenant General Jamshid Moradian, advisor to the chief of police.
- Lieutenant General Mehdi Rikhtehgar, deputy chief of police for training.
- Lieutenant General Hormoz Ahmadi, deputy chief of police for administration
- Lieutenant General Seyyed Abolqasem Sadat-Khansari, deputy chief of police for logistics and finance.
- Lieutenant General Reza 'Alyari, deputy chief of police for security.
- Lieutenant General Dr. Aqayinia, commander of the police university.
- Lieutenant General Ja'far Ja'fari, head of the inspection office of the police.
- Colonel Nurollah Parviznezhad, head of the administrative office of the police.
- Colonel Abolfazl Reza'i, head of the office of the chief of police.
- Colonel Ebrahim Farajizadeh-Angaji, head of the communications office of the police.
- Lieutenant General Fathollah Heydari, acting head of the traffic and driving office of Tehran.
- Lieutenant General Teymur Hasampur, training deputy for traffic and driving of Tehran
- Colonel Mohammad 'Ali Rafi'iha, technical deputy for traffic and driving of Tehran.
- Colonel Parviz Ghia'i, administrative deputy of traffic and driving of Tehran.

In separate decrees by Seyyed Reza Zovvareh'i, the head of the National Documents and Property Registration

Organization, Mohammad Hoseyn Tehrani was appointed director general of the registration office of Region Four of Western Azarbaijan, and 'Ali Asghar Fathi Osku'i, Hasan Soheylizadeh, and Abolqasem Mokhtarizadeh were appointed directors of the registration offices of Tabriz, Bandar Gaz, and Nowshahr, respectively.

In decrees by Dr. Jamshidi, the head of the Iranian Center for Statistics, Ja'far 'Asgari and 'Ali Haj Malek-Zanjani were appointed as director of financial statistics and national accounting and director of construction and housing statistics of this organization, and they began their duties.

In accordance with a decree issued by Dr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance and head of the general assembly of banks, Seyyed 'Ali Milani was appointed head of the board of directors and general manager of the Agricultural Bank.

In a decree by 'Ali Akbar Aqa'i, deputy for parliamentary and legal affairs of the Ministry of Roads and Transport, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas'ali Bahari was appointed head of the parliamentary office of this ministry, and he began his duties.

In a decree by Engineer Majid Maleki-Tabar, the head of the board of directors and director general of the postal company, Engineer Majid Harischi, maintaining his title, was appointed the executor of the plan to equip the mechanized postal centers, and he began his duties.

Also, in separate decrees by Maleki-Tabar, the director general and head of the board of directors of the postal company, Gholamhoseyn Amiri was appointed the deputy for provisional services and Baqer 'Ali Akbar Nasrabadi as the deputy for developmental and construction engineering affairs of the postal company of the Islamic Republic, and they began their duties.

In separate decrees by Engineer Sadeq Afshar, deputy minister of roads and transport and director general of the railroads, Engineer Mohammad Dadyar was appointed as the head of the office of studies and research, Engineer Sa'id Zia'i as the head of the office of statistics and machine services, Engineer Seyyed 'Abbas Azadi as the head of the office for the coordination of plans and projects, and Engineer Hasan Siasi as the head of the office of quality control and technical supervision of the railroads of the Islamic Republic.

12 Sep 90 Appointments

90AS0051B Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 12 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] In separate decrees by Dr. Banki, deputy minister of mines and metals and director general of the National Iranian Steel Company, Engineer Mohammad Hoseyn Habibian was appointed as developmental deputy, Engineer Davud Keshavarzian as deputy for mines and exploration, and Dr. Qasem Soleymani as the advisor for mines and exploration of the national steel company, and they began their duties.

In a decree by Engineer Yazdanpanah, the director general of the Kish developmental organization, Mohammad Ja'far Majzubi, the administrative deputy of this organization, maintaining his position, was appointed as the director of the public relations office of the Kish developmental organization.

Dr. 'Isa Kalantari, minister of agriculture, appointed Mahmud Saber-Hamishegi as the permanent director general and head of the board of directors of the national tea organization.

In a decree by Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, Ebrahim Ansari-Lari was appointed as the secretary general of the board of trustees of the national public libraries.

His previous position was political deputy governor general of Bushehr.

In a decree by Engineer Naraqi, the head of the board of directors and director general of the communications company, Fathollah Mo'azzami-Farahani was appointed as the director for developmental and engineering affairs of the cable network, and he began his duties.

The public relations office of the housing foundation of the Islamic Republic announced: In accordance with a decree by Engineer 'Abbas Ahmad Akhundi, the head of the housing foundation, Engineer Hasan Fard-Hesari was appointed as the head of the central headquarters of housing reconstruction of the earthquake-stricken region, stationed in Rasht, and he began his duties.

Upon the suggestion of the chief of police and the approval of the minster of interior, the police chiefs of the Provinces of Khuzestan, Esfahan, Sistan va Baluchestan, and Yazd were appointed, and they began their duties.

According to a report by the public relations office of the Police Department of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the new chiefs are:

1. Lieutenant General Parsapur, police chief of the Province of Esfahan.
2. Colonel Reza'inia, the chief of police of the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan.
3. Colonel Akhavan, the chief of police of the Province of Yazd.
4. Colonel Fajrzadeh, the chief of police of the Province of Khuzestan.

Also, the representatives of the vali-ye faqih [the supreme jurisconsult] appointed the heads of the ideological and political organization and the passport office as follows:

1. Hojjat ol-Eslam Shakeri, deputy for cleric affairs of the ideological and political office of the police.
2. Hojjat ol-Eslam Dianat, as the deputy director of education of the ideological-political office of the police.

3. Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari, as the head of the ideological political division of the passport office.

In a decree by Dr. Iraj Fazel, the minister of health, treatment, and medical education, Mohammad Hoseyn Milani was appointed the director general of the public relations office of this ministry.

19 Sep 90 Appointments

90AS0051C Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 19 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] Upon the suggestion of Dr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, and the agreement of the president, Ne'matollah Izadi was appointed as the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the USSR.

Previously, he served as the director general for Eastern Europe of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In a decree by Dr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, Heshmatollah 'Azizian was appointed as the deputy for banking affairs of this ministry.

Also, in implementing the ratification of the Cabinet, in a decree issued by the minister of economic affairs and finance, Mohammad Reza Amir Khansari, was appointed as the head of the supreme supervisory committee of the auditing agency.

In a decree by Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president and head of the Plan and Budget Organization, Khalil Sa'idi was appointed head of the supreme supervisory committee of the Province of East Azarbaijan.

In a decree by Dr. Fazel, the minister of health, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Zinanlu was appointed head of the medical sciences university and director general of the regional health and treatment agency of the Province of Zanjan.

In a decree by Engineer Razavi, vice president and secretary general for administrative and employment affairs of the country, Mohammad Hoseyn Behdadfar was appointed director general of the office of plans and programs and secretary of the council of plans and programs of this organization.

President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani issued a decree appointing Engineer Hamid Mirzadeh as the special presidential representative in the administration of the affairs of the war-stricken region.

In a decree by Engineer Mirzadeh, vice president of executive affairs, Engineer Mohsen Mehr'alizadeh was appointed as the head of the board of directors and director general of the Kish developmental organization.

Dr. 'Isa Kalantari, the minister of agriculture, appointed Engineer Jalal Rasulef as the deputy for plans and programs of this ministry. He also is the deputy minister of agriculture for forests and pastures. Also, in a decree, Dr. 'Alireza Talayi was appointed by the minister of agriculture as the deputy for gardening affairs of this ministry.

26 Sep 90 Appointments

90AS0051D Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 26 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] In a decree by Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance and head of the general assembly of the Iranian insurance company, Gholamhoseyn Delju was appointed head of the board of directors and director general of the above-mentioned company.

In separate decrees by Mohammad Hasan Teyrani, the advisor to the minister of commerce and head of the board of directors and director general of the national grain agency, Engineer Moharram Mehrnia was appointed director general of grains of West Azarbaijan Province and Engineer Mohammad 'Ali Sirus as the director general for grains of the Province of Semnan, and each began his duties.

In a decree by Engineer Naraqi, the director general of the Iranian communications company, 'Abdol Majid Fuladi was appointed as the director for purchasing affairs and contracts of the deputy division for provisions.

In separate decrees by Seyyed Reza Zovvareh'i, the head of the document and property registration organization of the country, Ahmad Salmaninia was appointed as director general of the registration offices of District 13 of Lorestan, and Yadollah Malekpur as the director general of the registration office of District 14 of Yazd.

3 Oct 90 Appointments

90AS0051E Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 3 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] In separate decrees by Seyyed Reza Zavvareh'i, the head of the document and property registration organization of the country, Ebrahim Fotuhi, Seyyed Reza Mir Vakili-Mehrizi, and Ebrahim Mir Mohkam were appointed as the directors of the documents offices of Asadabad, Yazd, and Shemiran, respectively.

The public relations office of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs announced that in accordance with a decree by Hoseyn Kamali, the minister of labor and social affairs, Farhad E'tezadi was appointed as the director general of labor and social affairs of Central Province (Arak), and he began his duties.

With the issuance of a decree by Engineer 'Abbas Ahmad Akhundi, the head of the housing foundation, Khalil Varmaqani was appointed as the head of the housing foundation of the Islamic revolution of Bakhtaran Province and began his duties.

In a decree by Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, the vice president and head of the Plan and Budget Organization, Masih Qa'emian was appointed as a member of the board of directors and director general of the Iran Dadehpardazi Company.

Nepal

'10,000' Protest for Democratic Constitution

BK2410014990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1716 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 23 (AFP)—More than 10,000 Nepalese students and left-wing activists Tuesday marched here to demand a democratic constitution granting sovereignty to the people, witnesses said.

The demonstration was jointly organized by the All Nepal Nationalist Free Students' Union and the Democratic National Youths Organization.

The estimated 10,000 demonstrators carried placards such as "People's Movement Still Continues," "Conspiracy Cannot Work," "Monarchy Will Not Last," and "Down With Palace Conspiracy On Constitution."

The protestors then converged on Tundikhel Square to hear student speakers attack "reactionary elements" for conspiring to give the country an undemocratic constitution.

Student leader Tul Bahadur Gurung said Nepal's students and youth "have no other alternative but to take to the streets for a democratic constitution if there is further delay in promulgating the new constitution."

Other speakers called on King Birendra to beware of siding with those who wanted an undemocratic constitution and recalled the fate of the Shah of Iran.

They demanded that the constitution drafted by the Constitution Recommendation Commission and reviewed by the Council of Ministers should be promulgated without further delay.

Earlier Tuesday the cabinet agreed to adopt minor changes to the draft constitution that were proposed by King Birendra and also decided to ask him to promulgate it Friday, cabinet sources said.

King, Premier Reach Agreement on Key Provision

BK2410111290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1044 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 24 (AFP)—Nepal's Cabinet has agreed to a key provision in the draft constitution proposed by King Birendra, but without compromising the draft's democratic structure, the Prime Minister's Office said Wednesday.

The promulgation of the draft, promised last week by the king, has been delayed due to last minute amendments proposed by the royal palace that the Cabinet rejected Monday as being undemocratic.

But in a meeting late Tuesday, Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai told the king that his Cabinet agreed to form a state council standing committee headed by a royal appointee.

Mr. Bhattarai said however that the provision for the standing committee would not change the democratic nature of the constitution since it cannot function as a parallel body to the Council of Ministers, or Cabinet.

"The king will have to act on all judicial executive and legislative matters on the advice of the Council of Ministers. It is only a matter of understanding between the palace and the elected government," he told reporters.

The 15-member committee is to be composed of eight royal appointees and seven others including the premier, defence and foreign minister, supreme court chief justice, and the chief of army staff.

The king and Mr. Bhattarai were to meet for more talks on the draft late Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a royal palace statement issued Tuesday said "restraint and cooperation are called for at this time when the final shape in being given to the constitution."

"Effort is under way to finalise the constitution and promulgate it soon after the discussions and consultations with the prime minister," it said, amid renewed protests over the delay in the draft's promulgation.

Political parties, including those in Mr. Bhattarai's interim government, have threatened to launch street protests if an undemocratic constitution is accepted. On Tuesday, more than 10,000 people demonstrated here.

Pakistan

President Khan Addresses Nation 23 Oct

BK2410064090 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 90 pp 1, 6

["Unofficial English rendering of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's address to nation over radio and television" on 23 October]

[Text] The nation goes to polls tomorrow. Thus will Inshallah [God Willing] be fulfilled the promise I made to you on August 6.

Exhorts Almighty Allah in the Holy Quran: "And keep your promise. Surely it will be inquired into". I cannot thank Him enough for having enabled me to keep an extremely important promise to the nation.

While promising elections on October 24, I had no doubt in my mind that they would be held on the promised date. My conscience was clear and my resolve firm. I know that an overwhelming majority of the people believed in my words. Skeptical were only those who take the unfortunate past experience of broken promises to be an esential ingredient of politics in Pakistan and who do not consider political pledges to be anything more than time-serving expediency. They are not willing to believe that promises can be made to be kept and can actually be kept. Skeptical was also that pitiable lot which has been so thoroughly nurtured on falsehood in a particular political culture that it sees even established truths as falsehood, though they had witnessed highly convincing examples of promise-keeping on my part in 1988.

Fresh elections are a logical sequel to the dissolution of the National Assembly which had been widely welcomed by the people. The reason was that the step that I took was in accord with the thinking, wishes and aspirations of millions and millions of voiceless people, who had in their own way reached the same conclusion as I had that the previous government was not being run and could not be run in accordance with the Constitution. This inference they had not drawn at my behest. What had led them to this conclusion were the conditions and happenings they saw with their own eyes and heard about with their own ears during the 20-month rule of the previous government. They were witness to the fact that when the line between right and wrong, just and unjust was obliterated, when decisions were dictated by expediencies and were no longer based on justice, when official favours were done on the basis of political considerations rather that merit—then democracy stood insulted and negated in the guise of practising democracy. They, therefore, had been demanding for quite some time that the Assembly be dissolved and the people be given a chance to choose their representatives afresh, in accordance with the Constitution. This popular demand was echoed from all sides with increasing intensity. However, I kept ignoring it until, in the light of my own observation and experience, I reached the conclusion that the Federal Government was not and could not be run in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Any further delay would not have been in national interest. Hence I had to act.

Even so, frantic efforts were ceaselessly made to mislead public opinion about the causes udnerlying my action and all sort of ignoble, malicious and utterly irresponsible allegations—from conspiracy to personal motives—were levelled. All types of fanciful theories were advanced and blame was put on every one's doors but neither was there any analysis carried out of what had actually caused the dissolution of the Assembly, nor did those who were really to blame for it display the moral courage of admitting their own mistakes, though they knew fully well whose fault it was and who was to blame for it.

As I had said in my August 6 address, my decision was not against any individual, group or party. It was against practices and attitudes which were violative of the Constitution, the law and the norms of democracy and which, even though of momentary benefit to the Party's cause, ran counter to the long-term interests of the country, the integrity of the Federation and the good of the people at large. It was not the President who was responsible for these practices and attitudes. If those really responsible for them had bothered to search their souls, they would have easily seen what had gone wrong and where they were leading the country. But the problem is that we are not used to introspection and self-analysis. Our political parties normally don't carry out a dispassionate assessment of their own behaviour and performance. Nor do party workers hold the leaders to account for their misdeeds. The parties can keep their direction right and take timely steps to correct themselves only if they cultivate the habit of periodically taking a hard look at themselves and their performance in the mirror of objective realities and public perceptions.

It is to be regretted that instead of adopting a positive and constructive approach, all energies were spent on creating doubts and uncertainty in the public mind in a bid to cover up weaknesses. It was claimed that elections will not be held and that the process of accountability will be used as a pretext to postpone the polls or as a ploy to keep certain people out of the electoral process. This impression was sought to be created not only within the country but also abroad. Further, if was alleged that political freedom will be curtailed and fundamental rights suspended under Emergency. It was also argued that it was just not possible to hold free and fair elections under the care-taker governments. One should now be asking those who used to indulge in such utterances and make such false assertions as to what name, if not election, do they give to the process in which millions and millions of people are to take part tomorrow? Where is the list of those who have not been allowed on the fancied pretexts to participate in the process? Which rights were suspended by resort to the emergency powers? And what obstacles were created by the caretakers in the way of free elections?

Time has already answered these questions. Time has also dispelled rumours circulated meanwhile. As you know, fresh rumours were milled out almost on a weekly basis. At times they banished the President out of the country for medical treatment and at times even to the other world! One day they predicted Martial Law and the next day the revival of assemblies. Sometimes they spoke of so-called offers of reconciliation to the lords and masters of the former regime and sometimes of reshuffle of the caretaker set-up. Changes on the political horizon were also prophesied with reference to strange names and specific dates. Obviously, it is not possible to put a lid on rumours, especially when they are spread with sinister motives under a well thought-out plan. Sober elements in the country nonetheless felt dismayed that even some newspapers had chosen to climb the bandwagon and discarded the notion of the sanctity of the pen and the written word. It was not expected of those who claim to be, and can be, the moulders of public opinion. Many of them did not even display the moral courage to express regrets or remorse when reports published by them turned out to be nothing more than malicious rumours and propagandist yarns. Unfortunately, while being carried away by rumours, such people also forgot the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) [Peace Be Upon Hinu] admonition that "for a man to be counted as a liar, it is enough that he passes on without verification whatever he hears".

However, it is a matter of satisfaction that the people, though feeling momentarily uncertain and anxious, exhibited political maturity and did not generally pay heed to the words of those elements and their promoters who consider democracy to be synonymous only with themselves being at the helm.

So far as the dissolution of the Assembly is concerned, all sort of oratorical nonsense was said about it. However, the High Courts have since upheld the decision and have not only vindicated its constitutionality but have also held as valid the grounds on which the decision was based. The Courts have agreed that the National Assembly had not been able to carry through any substantial legislative work (which was its basic task); that the Federal Government had miserably failed to protect the Province of Sindh against internal disturbances, thereby endangering the integrity and solidarity of Pakistan, that institutions envisaged in the Constitution were not allowed to function, resulting in polarisation and confrontation between the Centre and the Provinces; that provincial autonomy was enchroached upon; that fundamental rights, like the dignity of man and the privacy of home, were violated, that important constitutional organs of the State, like the Senate and Judiciary, were ridiculed and brought into disrespect, that Secret Funds and official means of transportation were misused at the time of the No-Confidence Motion; and that wholesale and indiscriminate appointments were made on government posts, causing irreparable damage to the country's administrative machinery. At [illegible] now should change the views of those who objected to calling a spade a spade and spent all their power [illegible]iculation on proving black as white. [sentence as [illegible]]

The judgment of the Courts is a hist[illegible]ment. It is an irrevocable guarantee of the inviola[illegible] Constitution and the supremacy of law. It will s[illegible] as a constant reminder to future rulers that to ignore the institutions envisaged in the Constitution is to invite anarchy and that the Constitution does not give anyone a free permit of irresponsible behaviour. It will keep reminding them that popular mandate does not mean a licence to do what they will. Rather, it connotes the obligation to equally respect the rights of all people and to serve them justly according to the Constitution and law. And serving the people does not mean serving party loyalists and supporters alone but all segments of population alike, for once in power, a party must rise above party considerations and represent the nation as a whole. I think, through this judgment, the courts have, on the one hand, established the guiding principles of the responsible, clean and stable parliamentary democracy envisaged in the Constitution and, on the other hand, under-scored the importance of the requirements of a federal system, meeting which is a must for the integrity of the federation and for the fulfilment of common national goals. It is this parliamentary, federal, Islamic democratic order for the establishment of which the trusting people of Pakistan have been offering countless sacrifices during democratic movements and in the hope of which they delegate their right to rule to their representatives through ballot, as they will once again do tomorrow.

Maybe, the enemies of the country and anti-democratic elements try to disrupt the electoral process in a bid to prevent the people from casting their ballot. But I warn them that any and every such effort shall be severely crushed. The Government is determined to maintain peace at all costs during polling and during the announcement of election results. All necessary measures have been taken to that end. The services of the Armed Forces will also be available to the law-enforcing agencies and they will be ever ready to come to the aid of the civil power. Undermining peace and disturbing law and order is among no one's fundamental rights; and the Government shall not allow any one to influence the electoral process or election results through violence, intimidation or rigging.

Here I would like, once again, to assure the nation with full sense of responsibility that the elections shall be completely free, fair and impartial. To ensure that, I have personally issued detailed and clear instructions to all the concerned organisations and officials and I am sure that they will spare no effort in fulfilling national aspirations and honouring my pledge to the people of Pakistan.

On this occasion, I also consider it my duty to pay tribute to the Election Commission for having done an excellent job, though the time available to it was all too short. Working hard day and night, the Commission has lived up to people's expectations. The Chief Election Commissioner and his colleagues deserve to be congratulated by the entire nation.

I would also like to appeal to all political parties and their workers to maintain peace and harmony despite political polarisation and emotional tension. I expect them to prove to the world that the people of Pakistan are second to none in their will and determination to see the democratic process through in a sober, decent and dignified manner.

My dear, countrymen,

Tomorrow is the day of decision-making. Exercising sovereignty as a sacred trust enjoyed by you as the vicegerent of Almighty Allah and within the limits set by him, you have to elect tomorrow a House that works for the Islamic principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice as enshrined in the Constitution. Tomorrow, you will once again get a chance, as you have been demanding, to effect improvement in national affairs. Remember, staying put in complacence is the last stage of a nation's moral degeneration. Even God does not help those who don't help themselves. To participate in the election process is to help ourselves. As I have said earlier, the sole purpose behind the dissolution of the Assembly was to give the people a fresh chance to express themselves. The people are the real sovereigns. Only they can decide as to whom should their right to rule be delegated. Tomorrow, you have to make that decison.

It has been so happening that the masses first lovingly bring some people to power and then, within a short period, turn against them. The reason for the gradual withdrawal of their initial support is either that the rulers disregard their mandate or that the people make an initial error of judgment in the selection of their representatives. Therefore, it is necessary that representatives should be most carefully selected on the basis of their character and abilities and not under the spell of full-throated slogans.

True that the political parties have not presented their manifestos and their programmes for the future with the same zest and vigour with which they have done mud-slinging against each other. But you are capable of judging between good and bad. Most of you are Muslims. You know the Islamic concept of government. You also know the emphasis laid by the Holy Koran on the qualities of Taq wa, piety and justice and its condemnation of the proud, the boastful, the liars and those who say things which they don't do. The country's Constitution also prescribes the qualifications of public representatives. According to the Constitution, they should be people of good character, should have adequate knowledge of Islam, should be sagacious, righteous, honest and ameen [suppliant]. They should not hold views which are prejudicial to the ideology of Pakistan, or the sovereignty, integrity or security of the country. And this is essential because people of negative thinking just cannot be the harbingers of good.

In addition to Islam and the Constitution, you should also keep in mind while voting the diktats of the peculiar curcumstances in which the country is placed today. Dramatic changes are taking place in international relations and in the region. These may severely affect Pakistan's security needs and its economic situation. To be able to deal with such problems effectively, the country needs a strong, stable, determined and patriotic leadership—a government that does not all the time think of perpetuating itself in power by whatever means available but seriously concentrates on solving the people's problems and looks for help and support within and not beyond the borders of the country—a government that relies upon and puts its total trust in the people of Pakistan, a government that depends on the fuller exploitation of indigeous [word as published] resources, on the nation's collective strength in unity and on divine help rather than looking all the time with outstretched hands to foreign assistance. It is time that the nation learnt to stand on its own feet, despite the sacrifice and hardship that it may entail in the short run.

You should keep all these considerations in mind and listen to no one but your conscience when casting your vote. You need not fear anyone but God Almighty, for His fear alone will give you the courage to make the right decision. The fear of all other powers makes a man coward but that of God is a source of strength.

Tomorrow you are to decide the direction in which Pakistan is to move during the next five years. It is a tremendous responsibility. While discharging it, you should display the sense of responsibility that nations learn from past experiences. May Almighty Allah guide you in making the right decision. I hope and pray that your choice results in the formation of a stable, honest, responsible and patriotic government. Ameen. Pakistan Paindabad. [Long Live Pakistan]

Affirms Constitutional Rules

BK2410084490 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said he saw no hitch in the transfer of power to the government elected as a result of today's polls. He was talking to newsmen after visiting a polling station at Chak Shahzad near Islamabad today. He said the new parliament will meet according to the rules and the Constitution within 30 days from the day it is elected.

He said the president no longer has the power to nominate the prime minister as this power has lapsed on the 20th of March this year. This power has now passed on to the house itself, which will ascertain as to who enjoys the support of the majority of members in a special session. After being invited to form the government, the prime minister will have to seek vote of confidence of the house within 60 days. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan thanked Almighty Allah for being able to fulfill his promise to hold the elections and prayed that everything proceeds smoothly and peacefully during the polls.

The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, cast his vote at his native village, New Jatoi, in Naoshero Feroze District this morning.

The chief election commissioner, Mr. Justice Naimuddin, visited a number of polling stations in Peshawar this morning. He talked to polling agents of the contesting candidates and the voters. He expressed his satisfaction over the polling arrangements. Later, talking to Radio Pakistan's Peshawar representative, the chief election commissioner said he is fully satisfied with the process of polling. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, brisk polling is under way throughout the country. Radio Pakistan's representatives from across the country have reported that the polling is being held in a peaceful and orderly manner. There is a great enthusiasm among the voters and they have been coming to the polling stations in large numbers since this morning. There are long queues of voters waiting to cast their votes.

To Assist U.S. Monitors

BK2310144890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that the government will provide all possible assistance to the observer team of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs of the U.S., now in Pakistan to monitor the election process. He was talking to the leaders of the team who called on him in Islamabad

Violence Related to Elections Disrupts Country

Troops, Police Dispatched

BK2310102890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Oct 90 pp 1, 6

[Text] Sialkot, Oct 22—Army troops and heavy police contingents have been rushed to Shakargarh where eight persons belonging to rival groups supporting different National Assembly candidates in NA-51 (Sialkot-VII) were brutally murdered Sunday evening.

Seven of those murdered who were Nazir Ahmad, Chairman Union Council Chak Amroo, Mubarak Ali, Chairman Union Council Sarjaal, Mohammad Rafiq, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Tufail, Manzoor Ahmad and Mustaq Lodhi belonged to the group of former Federal Minister and PDA (People's Democratic Alliance) candidate Anwar Aziz Choudhry, and the remaining one-killed, Hafiz Usman, was a supporter and cousin of Ch. [Choudhry] Idrees Taj, IJI (Islami Jamhoori Ittehad) [Islamic Democratic Alliance].

The tragedy had its origin in a public meeting last week at Chak Amroo, 110 Km east of here, of former minister and local IJI stalwart, Ch. Akhtar Ali Anwar Aziz's supporters Mushtaq Lodhi and Haji Yaqoob Ali, thrashed Mohammad Qasim, brother of Hafiz Usman, over a dispute that followed removal of banners projecting Anwar Aziz.

This, enraged supporters of Idrees Taj, who at about 7 p.m. last evening, intercepted the jeep of Ch. Nazir and his companions on their way back from a public meeting of Ch. Anwar Aziz at Shakargarh.

Bans on Carrying Firearms

BK2310120790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] The government has totally banned firing in air and carrying of firearms in public. Violators will be arrested and dealt with severely. The measure has been taken to ensure peaceful atmosphere during elections.

Islamic Alliance Candidate Killed

BK2310155390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Idris Taj, the Islamic Democratic Alliance candidate from National Assembly Constituency 91 in Shakarghar in Sialkot District, was shot dead by some unknown assailants this afternoon. Police have registered a case against the culprits. Mr. Idris Taj of the Islamic Democratic Alliance and Mr. Anwar Aziz Chaudhry of the People's Democratic Alliance were the two major contenders in this constituency. According to the Election Commission, voting will not be held in this constituency because of this incident. However, voting for the non-Muslim seat from this constituency will be held according to schedule.

Polling Begins 24 Oct in 'Peaceful Manner'

BK2410034390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Polling to elect members of the National Assembly has just begun. It is to continue without any break till 1700 [1200 GMT] today. Elections are being held in a peaceful manner and the election commission has asked voters to go to polling stations without any fear and exercise their right of franchise.

Polling would be held for 204 National Assembly units and seats out of 207. Two candidates from the federally-administered tribal areas have already been returned unopposed. The election commission has announced that polling will not he held today in National Assembly constituency 91-Sukkurgarh because of the incident of assassination of Mr. Mohammad Idris Khan, IJI [Islami Jamhoor Ittehad] candidate for that constituency. There are 10 seats for the minorities.

Minister Discusses Regional Events, Palestine

BK2110085790 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Text] Pakistan has urged the nonaligned countries to take notice of the reign of terror unleashed by India on the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The call was made by the federal minister for health, special education, and social welfare and women affairs, Dr. Noor Jehan Panezai, while representing Pakistan at the Havana conference of the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] information ministers. She told the NAM forum that the Indian forces in the occupied territory are violating human rights on a massive scale, where thousands of people have been killed, maimed and incarcerated, women have been molested and property has been most wantonly burnt and destroyed.

Dr. (Panezoi) told the conference that the situation in Afghanistan has also remained a matter of concern for Pakistan. She condemned the killings by Isreali forces of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory and expressed Pakistan's full support and sympathy for them.

Court To Investigate Bhutto Appointments

BK2310142290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 23 Oct 90

[Text] A presidential reference was filed against former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the special court of Justice Rashed Aziz in Lahore today. The reference relates to appointments made through the Placement Bureau by the today. The president however emphasized that no one should doubt Pakistan's democratic credentials and should not arrogate to himself the right to give a judgment on the conduct of affairs of Pakistan. The team also had a meeting with Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad in Islamabad today and he briefed members of the team on the composition and functioning of the parliament. Pakistan People's Party government in violation of rules and regulations. The court has fixed 5 November for preliminary investigations into the reference.